

the chronicle

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FOR THE BIG
CARNIVAL**
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96 arrests as crackdown continues

A total of 96 people have been arrested in Walsall in the first two months of a crackdown on known criminals in the borough.

Officers have been raiding homes and carrying out curfew checks across the borough as part of tough new action in Operation Serve and Protect. The drive was launched in April as police vowed it would tackle "issues which matter to local people."

During April and May, 37 people were locked up for being wanted on warrant and not appearing in court.

Another 12 people have been arrested for being in breach of their curfew.

Twenty-one others have been arrested as a result of forensic inquiries made by police at crime scenes. Since the operation began, 112 premises have been searched under police powers and a further 27 search warrants carried out.

Officers have also carried out more than 371 follow-up visits to victims of anti-social behaviour in the borough.

Since the start of the operation, police have also referred 73 offenders to drug programmes and other rehabilitation schemes, it has been revealed.

Det Ch Insp Ian Bamber, of Walsall Police, said: "Operation Serve and Protect concentrates on known criminals across the Walsall area."

"We are committed to removing prolific offenders from our streets and we are focussing efforts on disrupting criminal activity whenever and wherever possible."

"The initiative aims to put the right number of officers in the right places and tackle the issues which matter to local people," he added.

The crackdown will continue over the coming weeks.

Forty-four known offenders were arrested in the first month of the crackdown.

Police are also currently carrying out Operation Steel to clamp down on metal thieves.

Memorial is targeted for second time

Metal thieves have stripped copper from the war memorial at Barr Beacon for the second time this year.

The thieves targeted the First World War memorial over the weekend, stealing the copper from the front roof columns.

The crime, which followed a similar attack at the end of April, was described as "despicable".

The Barr Beacon Trust was set to talk about the possibility of using replacement materials on the distinctive dome roof, such as felt at a cost of £6,000.

Councillor Adrian Andrew, trust chairman and council deputy leader, said: "To target a war memorial that stands as a reminder of the sacrifices made by men from Staffordshire and Warwickshire in the First World War is despicable."

"The metal taken is worth virtually nothing to the thieves but we're facing yet another large repair bill."

"The trust will discuss possible replacement materials for the monument when it meets."

"We will also examine the options available to stop up security at the site."

Thief-proof - page 5

Granddaughter accused of murdering her gran RELATIVE OF VICTIM DAISY IS CHARGED

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

THE granddaughter of 92-year-old Daisy Myring has appeared in court accused of murdering the partially-blind pensioner in her Brownhills home.

Sheila Jones was arrested for the second time as she walked down Red Lion Lane in Norton Canes last week.

The married mother of two was charged and held in custody at Bloxwich Police Station before being driven to Walsall Magistrates Court.

The arrest came after police found "significant" new evidence which has now been sent off for forensic testing. Jones appeared at Walsall Magistrates Court at for a brief two-minute hearing. Dressed in a casual black t-shirt and wearing glasses, the 36-year-old spoke only to confirm her name and address.

Custody

Magistrates immediately sent the case to Wolverhampton Crown Court for a hearing, where her legal team were set to argue she should be released on bail rather than remanded in custody.

Jones, of Brownhills Road, Norton Canes, showed no emotion when she appeared in the dock and no other members of the family appeared in the court's public gallery.

Mrs Myring, who suffered fatal blows to the head and body, was discovered by one of her carers at her home in Albion Road. She was pronounced dead at Walsall Manor Hospital.

Jones was arrested a short time later, but released on bail along with a 40-year-old man and a 32-year-old woman from Norton Canes. They remain on police bail pending further investigations.

Last Wednesday, police searched a fishing pool near Norton Canes after a tip-off items may have been dumped there. Nothing was discovered.

Jones was remanded in custody. No bail application was made and the case was adjourned to September 2.

Mystery man named



Geoff Dance

The mystery bidder who has put in a multi-million offer for the freehold of Walsall FC's Banks's Stadium is businessman Geoff Dance.

Mr Dance is managing director of Stratford-upon-Avon based PMD Magnetics says the firm wants to take over freehold. He said the move "would see the ownership of the Banks's Stadium in the hands of a family business with deep Black Country roots".

Bidder - page 60

What it's all about - Alfie



Getting ready for a fundraising event are, back, Alfie's aunt Michelle Spencer and father Lee Bates. Front right, is Alfie Bates and his brother Charlie and mother Alex

A family from Great Barr are aiming to raise £5,000 for youngsters with diabetes.

Three-year-old Alfie Bates, who was diagnosed with diabetes when he was 18 months old, has inspired his aunt, Michelle Spencer, and the rest of his family to host a charity night for the cause.

The event will be at The Stadium Suite, Walsall Football Club, Bescot Crescent, on Saturday, July 2, from 7.30pm until 1am for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Michelle said: "I never appreciated how diabetes affects babies and young children but it is

so much harder because they can't always tell you if they are feeling unwell. Alfie having diabetes has been a huge learning curve for the whole family."

There will be live entertainment, a magician, free prize draw and auction. Tickets, which include a hot buffet, are £20 for adults, £10 for children (aged 10 to 15) and £5 for younger children. Donations are asked on behalf of youngsters aged three and under. To book a place email lee.diabetesfundraising@googlemail.com or call Michelle on 07743322390 or visit www.justgiving.com/lee-bates.

Question over death figures at the Manor

Walsall Manor Hospital has been accused of trying to hide the true level of deaths on its wards. The hospital declared hundreds of extra patients as being terminally ill to remove deaths from its mortality rates, it is claimed, making it look like it was delivering better care.

The number of patients designated as "terminal" by bosses at Walsall Manor Hospital increased from around 10 per cent of all deaths to 78 per cent during a six month period in 2008.

The claims emerged at the public inquiry into poor standards at Stafford Hospital which heard evidence from death rates expert Professor Sir Brian Jarman.

Manor hospital bosses have said they took mortality rates "extremely seriously".

Sir Brian, from the Dr Foster Unit at Imperial College London, provided evidence to the inquiry showing how the hospital had seen the numbers of patients designated as terminal suddenly and dramatically increase in 2008.

Calculations

This effectively removed those patients from the death-rate calculations. The increase in the number of patients deemed terminally ill in hospitals in England was just three per cent.

A similar trend was noted at Stafford Hospital where the number of patients designated as terminal shot up from around 10 per cent to 35 per cent. Sir Brian said the numbers had to be false and would have significantly reduced death rates at the trusts.

"The only way you could get dramatic changes like that would be if the trusts suddenly became terminal care hospitals overnight, which didn't happen," he added.

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust could not explain why the number of patients designated as "terminal" increased so much in 2008.

But Richard Kirby, chief executive of the trust, said: "Our mortality rates have reduced over the last 10 years and this is testament to the hard work of our staff who ensure that quality and safety measures are monitored closely. According to the information within the Dr Foster system, our use of palliative care codes is in line with the national average."

HomeServe is taking on staff

Walsall's HomeServe is taking on dozens of staff as business goes from strength to strength.

The firm needs 45 workers in its call centre and is offering salaries of up to £15,309, with staff given the opportunity to pocket up to £22,000 with extra earnings.

Business is booming for the Green Lane company both at home and abroad. It was announced last month that underlying revenue for the year to March 31 was up 15 per cent, to £425.4 million, with adjusted profit before tax jumping 16 per cent to £117.1m.

Bosses are also planning to add millions of new customers to their books by expanding in America.

The jobs in Walsall will see 30 people employed as "inbound" sales and service executives, meaning they receive calls from customers, and 15 people as "outbound" workers, who make calls to sell products.

Spokeswoman Diane Jones said the workers would be trained, and would have benefits including free gym membership. HomeServe specialises in home emergency insurance and repairs.

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Plans to expand schools

A consultation is to start on plans to create extra places at two Walsall schools to help education bosses cope with a baby boom.

Walsall Council plans to double the number of reception places at Caldmore Primary School to 60, while Aldridge's Leighswood Primary would increase its numbers from 75 to 90 from September 1, 2012.

It will be the second time it has created extra places. The council's decision-making cabinet approved a six-week consultation on the proposals last week.

Both schools are currently over-subscribed. Education bosses are also bracing themselves for even more demand over the coming years.

Predictions show there could be 3,592 reception pupils in Walsall by 2019 compared to 3,511 this year. Three other primary schools are already being enlarged.

A report which went before the cabinet said the number of places in Walsall schools in the primary sector is greater than the projected number of pupils until 2015 to 2016 – but it added there would be pressures on school accommodation as pupil numbers increase.

St Matthew's Councillor Mohammed Arif welcomed the plans. Regeneration chief Councillor Adrian Andrew said: "We have to recognise in certain parts of the borough the population is growing."

Demand for places is highest in the town centre and Aldridge with further extra places set to be needed in Short Heath, Willenhall and Bentley.

Five attacks on the elderly

Violent criminals have snatched valuables in 10 attacks in a Walsall neighbourhood – including five attacks on elderly people, some of them in their own homes. All the attacks have taken place since April 1.

Detectives are trying to work out if the raids in Pheasey are linked.

One 65-year-old man suffered a broken collar bone when he was pushed down his stairs by a burglar in April, while last week, a 76-year-old was robbed in her home by a man brandishing a garden fork.

Police said they had increased high-visibility patrols and deployed plain clothes officers. Joanne Hunt, spokeswoman for West Midlands Police, said: "Since April 1 there have been 10 offences."

"Five of these offences have involved elderly people. One person has been arrested and remained in custody. He has been charged with one of these offences."

Comedy night

Music and comedy is in store at a church in Walsall this weekend. Pelsall Methodist Church, Chapel Street is hosting Ready, Steady, Go – a musical comedy night. Music comes from drummer Bradley Hopkins, pianist Edward Lee and singer Danielle Currie. The event is on Saturday June 18 from 7.30pm, tickets are £5 on the door or call 01922 691578.

Training on abuse

An agency which looks after victims of domestic abuse has expanded to include training courses for companies.

The move by Walsall's Domestic Violence Forum aims to help employers handle issues when they arise and to generate income for the organisation. Places are available for one-day training courses at venues in the borough in June, July and September for anyone who runs a business.

The course includes seminars in domestic abuse awareness.

The next courses will be at Holiday Inn Express off Wolverhampton Road, Walsall on June 17, followed by St John's Methodist Church, Harrison Street, Bloxwich on July 20.

To book a place call 01922 406767 or send an email to rogers@walsall.gov.uk

Vice girl fined £120

A woman has been fined after admitting loitering for the purposes of prostitution in Walsall.

Kimberley Brown, aged 27, of Lindon Drive, Brownhills, pleaded guilty when she appeared at Walsall Magistrates Court.

Mrs Maggie Meakin, prosecuting, said police officers saw Brown on Wednesbury Road, Pleck, peering into vehicles at about 9.10pm and

watched her for 10 minutes before making an arrest.

Mrs Meakin said: "She is known to police as regularly working in the vicinity."

Brown, representing herself, declined to say anything in mitigation.

She was fined £120 and ordered to pay £85 costs and a £15 victim surcharge.

Caring duo get honours



Hilary Hastings MBE

A Walsall childcare worker and a charity helper have been handed gongs in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Hilary Hastings, a 63-year-old childcare worker at the Sure Start centre, Birchills Street, Walsall, said it was a "massive surprise" being awarded the MBE after being put forward by her team.

The grandmother of five, from Wednesbury, said: "It's nice to think that what I have done has actually been a benefit to children."

Charity worker Amanda Poulson has also been handed the MBE in honour of her 23 years of dedication to the Walsall branch of the Samaritans. The 46-year-old, of Cheslyn Hay, said: "I totally believe in what the charity stands for."

"We don't get any government funding, and we have to fundraise everything."

Police find stolen haul

A haul of stolen metal was found during a police crackdown as officers continue to get tough on thieves in Walsall.

Three men were arrested and one driver handed a £500 on-the-spot fine for using red diesel, as part of the operation. Metal thieves are striking more than 15 times each day in the region.

Police found £200 of metal stolen from Darlston during a two-day crackdown as officers warned thieves: "We will catch you."

Two men were arrested and charged after a stolen vehicle was found at a scrapyard. Another was arrested and bailed in connection with a stolen vehicle.

A total of 14 vehicles carrying scrap or metal were stopped by police during the Operation Steel exercise. Two were given penalties for having bald tyres, and one driver was found using a provisional licence.

Two of those stopped were taken off the road and three others were reported to the Environment Agency for not having waste code licences.

Inspector Neil Creed, of Walsall police station, said: "The action days are a testament to the partnership working in Walsall."

Four parties eye up GPs' surgery

Four interested parties are vying to take on a doctor's surgery in Bloxwich which was saved from closure.

The future of Abbey Square surgery hung in the balance after the husband-and-wife team running it retired last March. Now four bids have gone in, with the preferred applicant due to be unveiled towards the end of this month. The surgery is used by more than 3,000 patients.

Council sickness 'at unacceptable levels'

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Bosses at Walsall Council have admitted the levels of sickness at the authority are unacceptable.

Staff at Walsall Council took an average of 10.45 days off ill last year with council chiefs saying tax payers rightly expected the figure to be lower.

The local authority is now vowing to get tough on sickness absence as it battles to save £30 million over three years. Every year, it is forced to shell out millions of pounds on hundreds of temporary workers. The figure from 2010/11 is down from 12.07 days in 2009/10.

In 2007/08 16.29 days were taken and in 2008/09, the figure was 12.90. Finance chief Councillor Chris Towe, Walsall Council, said things were improving but there was still a long way to go.

"This reduction is a step in the right direction and it is worth noting that sickness absence has fallen by 35.8 per cent since 2007/08," Councillor Towe said.

"The current level of sickness absence however remains unacceptable and the council tax payers of Walsall rightly expect this figure to be lower than it is now."

Committed

"We are committed to reducing these levels even further and have introduced a range of measures designed to build on the progress which has already been made over the last few years."

"These include staff speaking to a registered nurse on their first day of absence who will advise about treatment and whether they need to see their GP."

"These measures were only introduced in the second half of the last financial year and they will continue to have a positive impact on driving down sickness levels and our projections indicate absence will fall to around 8.60 days by the end of the current financial year."

Bosses at Walsall Council are expected to spend £7 million on temporary workers up until September.

Walsall has a higher sickness rate than neighbouring Wolverhampton City Council, where staff took an average of 9.38 days off sick last year compared with 11.44 in 2009/10.

Coach to see Hoard

A coach will take people in Walsall to see the Staffordshire Hoard at Lichfield Cathedral. The treasure will be there from July 20 to August 21. The coach will pick up from the cenotaph in Norton Road, Pelsall at 11am on August 20. To book, call Sim Mayou on 01922 682118.

Crowds make carnival a roaring success

Willenhall Carnival proved to be a roaring success featuring everything from a display of Harley Davidson to live music and dozens of stalls.

Willenhall Carnival Queen Stacey Senior, aged 26, of New Invention was led by classic motorcycles.

The action, was at the Memorial Park as about 1,500 people enjoyed a funfair, live music, food stalls, donkey rides and car boot sale on Saturday.

Displays included dance, tai chi and karate.

Lizi Watts, principal of Willenhall's Classic Academy of Dance, said: "The carnival is really important to local people and we wanted to do a good job. I was really proud of all the dancers."

Walsall Mayor Councillor Garry Perry presented Stacey with her trophy, along with maid of honour student Laura Weston, 21; princesses Megan John, 13 and Jessica Watts, 15; rosebud Parys Seaton, 12; munchkin Molly Middleton, six; and cherubs Alfie Forrest, six, and Keira Barnett, five.

He said: "It is a fantastic event that welcomes the whole community, they should be very proud."

Organiser Sharon Green said: "Every year, we work to make the carnival bigger and better than the one before."

"I'd love to make it even bigger next year and am always on the look out for volunteers to help."

"New attractions this year include zumba displays as we always like to bring something fresh," she added.



Olivia Diponio, age 12, front stretches out watched by other members of Willenhall Classic Academy of Dance



Willenhall Carnival Queen Stacey Senior on her way to her throne with attendants



Willenhall Karate Club's Holly Harvey, Nicola Moor, Machin and James Nicholls

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Family firm's 100th birthday

A family business in Walsall gearing up to celebrate its century will build a new workshop and take on staff.

Five new staff will join S Jones Container Services Ltd if it gets permission to build a new workshop at its base in Aldridge.

The company, which sells, hires and converts huge shipping containers, said the expansion was needed to cope with growing

demand. The business's roots can be traced back to 1914.

In that year Samuel Jones became a haulage contractor and transported his first consignment of crockery from Aldridge railway station by horse and cart to Aldridge's Manor House.

It became a shipping container business in the 1970s.

Bosses said the new building would help with growing demand

from customers and create at least five jobs.

S Jones Container Services currently employs more than 30 people at the site in Anglian Road and plans have been submitted for a 2,674 sq ft workshop that would link two existing workshops.

Spokeswoman Laura Hucker said the expansion would help increase productivity.

Manic Mutts display

The annual Manic Mutts Dog Display show will staged this weekend in the grounds of St Giles Church, Walsall Street, Willenhall.

There will be numerous categories for a variety of pets and five pedigree categories.

The novelty classes include best fancy dress, waggiest tail, prettiest bitch, most handsome dog, best adult and junior handlers and best trick.

There will also be prizes for the best

veteran dog or bitch, best condition and best rescue. The judges this year will be Kennel Club members Craig Stokes and Karen Ford. The obedience category judge will be trainer Jean Davies, of Sneyd Dog Training Club based at Sneyd School, in New Invention. There will be prizes, rosettes and trophies. Entrants should just turn up on the day and the competitions cost £1 per class. Call 01922 865992 or 07725 551444.

Out-of-hours GP service will change

The out-of-hours GP service Walsdoc, which is used by hundreds of patients across Walsall, has lost its contract after more than a decade.

An alternative provider is to be appointed to run the service from September after the contract with NHS Walsall was put out to tender. Around 40 staff are employed by Walsdoc and the announcement has led to fears over their future. But it is expected they would be transferred over to the new provider as part of the agreement.

Bosses at NHS Walsall, which is battling to save £1.6 million over the next 12 months, have refused to reveal who is in the running for the out-of-hours service.

But Birmingham-based Badger, which already operates in the city, Solihull and South Staffordshire, is thought to be the frontrunner in taking over the service.

One worker, who did not want to be named, said: "Walsdoc has been here for a number of years and provided a good service for the people of Walsall. There is some concern we will be losing our jobs."

Walsdoc operates between 6pm and 8am each day. It has a call centre in Bloxwich and a centre at the Manor Hospital. The location of the new service providers has not been disclosed.

Walsdoc chairman Maureen Woodcock confirmed they had received notification they would not continue the service. She said: "As far as we are concerned we have a contract to deliver the out-of-hours service to the people of Walsall and that ends at the end of August."

"We have not been invited to carry on that service after that date. As long as the people of Walsall are all cared for that is the main priority."

NHS Walsall spokeswoman Michelle Cummings said: "We are in the final stages of the tendering process, and we hope to be able to confirm the award of the contract in the very near future."

Schools schemes are given backing

Schemes to provide new classrooms and remodel two schools in Walsall have been supported by council cabinet chiefs. More than £360,000 will be ploughed into Barr Beacon Language College, Aldridge and Hillary Primary, Palfrey.

It follows approval from Walsall Council's cabinet last week. Hillary, recently given permission to increase admissions from 60 to 90 to cope with a baby boom, will get £350,000 to overhaul the interior.

The cash will form the second phase of work to expand the school, with the first phase expected to be completed in September.

The Key Stage 2 building at the Hillary Street school will be remodelled and refurbished by September 2012.

Barr Beacon Language College has also been allocated £12,805 towards a project costing more than £500,000 to create extra space.

The cash has come from section 106 payments made during development work at Atlas Works, in Sandwell Street, and will be used to provide additional teaching space.

The Old Hall Lane school is getting the expansion to help in part cope with demand for places from children at a new housing estate nearby.

Regeneration chief Councillor Adrian Andrew said: "We are investing in education across the borough. It is good for the young people in Walsall and for the future generation."

College to open its doors

Walsall College is opening the doors of its Wise-mo and Green Lane campuses on Saturday June 18 for a community open day. The event will showcase the talents of staff and students with live beauty and hair demonstrations, catwalk shows, dance performances and cookery demonstrations. Families are welcome to attend.

Cheap car park appeal

One of the cheapest car parks in Walsall town centre will remain open for several more months despite council chiefs' efforts to shut it down.

The unofficial £3-a-day site opened off Lower Rushall Street without planning permission.

The move forced Walsall Council to pursue enforcement action against bosses.

The car park has proved popular with motorists as it costs £2 less than council-owned sites and a notice for its closure was issued by the authority.

However, it has emerged the business run by GT Parking has appealed the decision and it will now go before the Planning Inspectorate.

It will remain open until a decision is finally made, but this is likely to take several months. The cash-strapped council has come under fire for its parking policy in the town.

Officials at Walsall Council say the decision to seek closure of the Lower Rushall Street site is because it opened without permission and is in a dangerous position.

Views on leisure

Residents in Walsall have until June 26 to comment on sports and leisure provision in the borough.

Council chiefs are looking at the long-term future of leisure centres along with outdoor pursuits and sports coaching.

Questionnaires are available at the borough's leisure centres, while people can express their views by text to "leisure" to 60003.

Alternatively write to Sports and Leisure Consultation, Sport and Leisure Services, Walsall Street, Willenhall, WV13 2EX.

MP hits out at affect of new care charges

A Walsall MP has hit out at controversial new social care charges that are hitting scores of families across the borough – revealing that one 84-year-old widow who looks after her disabled adult son is facing a bill of almost £5,000 a year.

David Winnick described the situation as "unjust" and a "disgrace", saying concerned residents had contacted him.

Fears for future of relatives

Relatives of elderly people being cared for at homes run by Southern Cross Healthcare throughout the region have told of their fears, after it announced 3,000 jobs will be axed as it struggles with a major financial crisis.

Southern Cross, which has 20 homes in the region including five in Walsall and looks after 31,000 residents nationally, announced the job cuts after being hit by rising rent bills and falling revenue. It made a £311 million pre-tax loss in the six months to March.

Recently it decided to pay a third less rent to its landlords until September in order to stay afloat.

The son of an 84-year-old resident of Fernwood Court Care Centre, Bentley, who did not want to be named, said: "It's really scary. My mum has been here a year and has dementia."

Quality

She needs to be in a care home to be looked after. The quality of care here is really good.

"It took her six months to settle down and if she moves it would set her back. If the Government can bail out the banks, they should think about doing something about this."

A man, whose 57-year-old mother is a resident of Ash Grange Care Centre, Bloxwich, said the job cuts were unfair.

The 24-year-old, from Bloxwich, who wanted to remain anonymous, said: "If there are less staff it will affect the quality of care."

Lorraine Westwood, home administrator at Lyndon Hall, Malvern Close, West Bromwich, said: "No-one has told us anything. We don't know if we will be affected."

He said many of his constituents on a "limited income and with hardly any savings" were struggling after Walsall Council reviewed the costs of the care.

The bills people face are now determined by how much they receive in benefits – meaning some are paying much more.

Mr Winnick accused the Coalition of targeting the most vulnerable and raised the matter with Commons leader Sir George Young.

Speaking about the unnamed pensioner, the MP said: "She looks after her 60-year-old disabled son, as she has done all his life."

"But because community care services are being provided on a limited scale, Walsall Council has asked my constituent to pay £4,789 this year, starting with an instalment of some £400."

Vulnerable

"That is quite disgraceful. Why are the most vulnerable, such as the constituent whom I have cited being targeted by this Tory government and Tory councils?"

Sir George rejected the Walsall North MP's claim that the Government was targeting the most vulnerable. "We have allocated an extra £2 billion for social care through the NHS and local government that is aimed at the sorts of cases to which he refers," he said.

Mr Winnick said: "I am continuing to receive a number of cases from constituents who have received letters from the social care and inclusion section of Walsall Council asking for large sums."

Walsall Council said officers would speak with the pensioner concerned about her financial fears. Care chief Paul Davies, said: "The mother has contacted us about the contribution her son is being asked to make from his benefits towards his care and we will respond to her in due course."

Under the benefits-based charging system, the son is being asked to contribute 50 per cent of the higher rate Disability Living Allowance of £73.60 a week that he receives from the Government specifically to meet his care needs and 100 per cent of his £55.30 Severe Disability Premium.

"The council also follows national rules on making sure that people have enough money to live on."

Sun shines on canal festival



Narrowboats and other canal craft line the waterways at Pelsall during the event held over the weekend

There was historic boats, glorious sunshine and real ale to make sure the hundreds of people who turned out for the first Pelsall Canal Festival in a decade did not leave disappointed.

Pelsall Wood Common was transformed by the vivid reds, greens and blues of the canal boats, which were decorated with bunting, flowers, flags and mascots.

And while the second day on Sunday was something of a washout, Saturday's visitors were treated to blue skies.

Around 140 boats filled the Wyrley and Essington Canal for the two-day festival.

Among the boaters was Brian Holmes, a 69-year-old retired engineer from Bradford, who was aboard his boat, Thursday's Child dressed in a top hat and tails.

"I got this suit for £20 from a charity shop in Bridgnorth and I think it looks the part," he said. "I want to look my best on Thursday's Child, which I've had for 13 years now. This is a cracking event and I've been helping getting everything ready for them. I even did a



Sharp-suited Brian Holmes is seen aboard Thursday's Child at Pelsall Canal Festival

stunt in the burger van." Barry and Ann Parkes, aged 73 and 70 respectively from Tamworth, dressed in historic costumes for the day.

Retired electrician Mr Parkes said: "I've been on the water since 1963 and we still do one big cruise every year."

"Our boat is the Lord Nelson and people have been stopping us and saying how nice it looks."

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Stealing done 'as a favour'

An unemployed man stole almost £500 of shopping from a Bloxwich supermarket as a favour for a friend in return for cash, a court heard.

But security guards at Asda, Harrison Street, became suspicious of Daniel Wesley and stopped him as he tried to leave with a trolley loaded with groceries on May 27.

Mr Jason Corden-Bowen, prosecuting, told Walsall Magistrates Court the defendant was spotted on CCTV putting items totalling £483.41 in the trolley.

Wesley, unemployed, of Wellington Road, Bilston, admitted theft at the hearing last week.

"In his police interview he said he went into Asda with another male whom he refused to name," Mr Corden-Bowen said. "The male offered to give him £20 for doing it. He said he knew he was committing a criminal offence."

He added Wesley, aged 26, gave a negative drugs test and had no convictions. Mr Brj Choudhury, defending, said the defendant was easily led.

Bench chairman Miss Margaret Jackson said: "We note you have been shielding someone. They are no friend of yours. You are the one who has ended up in court." For theft Wesley was fined £65 with £15 victims' surcharge, and £85 costs.

Driver over drink limit

A motorist has been banned for three years after being caught over the drink and drive limit in Brownhills.

Alexander Matthew Crompton, aged 24, admitted driving with excess alcohol at Walsall Magistrates Court last week. He was arrested on the A5 Watling Street after police officers suspected him of speeding.

Mr Jason Corden-Bowen, prosecuting, told the bench the defendant measured 56mg of alcohol in 100ml of breath when he was pulled over at the Rising Sun pub island on May 31 at about 8.20pm. The limit is 35mg.

Mr Corden-Bowen added the defendant had previously been banned in 2007 for failing to provide a specimen. He had also turned down the drink and drive course.

Unemployed Crompton, of Tudor Park Gardens, Burntwood, told the magistrates he planned to sell the car to pay his fine of £100, £15 victim's surcharge and £85 costs. He also agreed to attend the drivers' rehabilitation course this time.

Mr Nigel Ford, defending said, he thought the alcohol had gone from his system.

Man in court over non-payments

A man accused of not paying for cars he bought in the Walsall area has appeared at the town's magistrates court.

Michael Scragg, aged 51, is charged with three counts of fraud.

The matter has been transferred to Cannock Magistrates Court on June 30.

Scragg, of Stockport, Cheshire, was given unconditional bail until then.

Blitz on market fakes

Bosses at Bescot Sunday Market are aiming to crack down on counterfeit goods after agreeing to a national charter ensuring customers get a fair deal.

LSD Promotions Ltd have signed up to the Real Deal initiative which has been backed by Walsall Council trading standards. The market in Bescot Crescent has been the subject of raids in the past. In March this

year more than £4,500 of fake footwear and clothes were seized.

The National Charter for Safe and Fair Markets is a commitment from market bosses to meet conditions and make sure fake goods are not sold.

Councillor Zahid Ali, said: "This is excellent news which shows that organisers of Bescot Market are working with us to ensure that fake or illegal goods are not on sale."

44 homes planned

Forty-four family homes are planned for land in Walsall.

If approved, the two, three and four-bedroom properties would be built on land at the back of Wilkes Avenue and Churchill Road in Bentley. Walsall Council has commissioned BM3 Architecture to produce the scheme. The site is between Jane Lane School, Churchill Road and the former Quality Hotel

site in Wolverhampton Road West.

Trees and shrubs would be a screen between the new estate and the school and open space would be created for residents.

A report reads: "The main frontage of the development is on to the playing fields of The Jane Lane School. Along the east boundary of the site and the school playing fields is a dense buffer of trees."

Son fined for door damage

A man has been ordered to pay his mother £50 compensation after he punched a hole in a door at her Willenhall home because she refused to lend him money.

Anthony Jarvis, aged 18, damaged the door at Oak Road, off Noose Lane, when his mother Louise refused to hand over £40 for him to pay a debt, magistrates at Walsall heard.

Jarvis admitted criminal damage at the address on May 18.

Mr Jason Corden-Bowen, prosecuting, said: "He said he needed £40 which he owed to someone or his face would be 'smashed'."

"She said he was calm at first, but became more and more agitated and punched the door leaving a hole in it. "She went to a shop to be in a public place and called the police."

He added the defendant, of Union Street, Chucky, Walsall, had not been getting on with his mother.

Mr Nigel Ford, defending, said: "Fortunately he hit the door rather than someone. This is his first conviction. We do not disagree with the issue of compensation."

Mr Ford added Jarvis, who is unemployed, was given a 12-month conditional discharge, told to pay £50 for the door and £85 costs.

Hotel to reopen and bring in 100 new jobs

A hotel which shut without warning leaving 50 people out of a job is to reopen as a Holiday Inn and recruit 100 workers. The former Compass Hotel, which was most well-known as the Friendly Lodge and lies just off Junction 10 of the M6, closed almost two years ago.

It left guests who had booked rooms and events floundering, including one couple from Bilston who were forced to find a new wedding venue within days. The 154-bed site in Wolverhampton Road West, Walsall, which has had various names over its more than 30-year

history, could reopen as early as the end of this year.

Trucks and skips were on site last week as work began to rebrand the business.

Holiday Inn's parent company Intercontinental Hotels Group today confirmed it had taken over the site. The 100-bed Holiday Inn Express is within a short distance of the site as it sits on the other side of the motorway island in Tempus Drive.

Spokeswoman Eleanor Conroy said: "I envisage the hotel will create around 100 jobs."

Bollards in at hotspot for travellers

A park which has been repeatedly targeted by travellers has had bollards put in to stop caravans pulling on to the site.

A seven-strong convoy of travellers drove on to land near the entrance of Holland Park in Brownhills recently before the council finished blocking it off.

Travellers have set up camps at different parts of the site several times this year, sparking an outcry from families. Brownhills representative Councillor David Turner said he had been inundated with calls.

Householders are annoyed about the presence of caravans and other vehicles at the parkland off The Parade. Councillor Turner said despite the new bollards he wanted more measures introduced.

Caravans and vehicles were spotted in the grounds recently, prompting Walsall Council and West Midlands Police to serve notices on the group to move them on.

Hotspot

The site has been a hotspot for caravans and council workers have now put in the posts to tackle the problem.

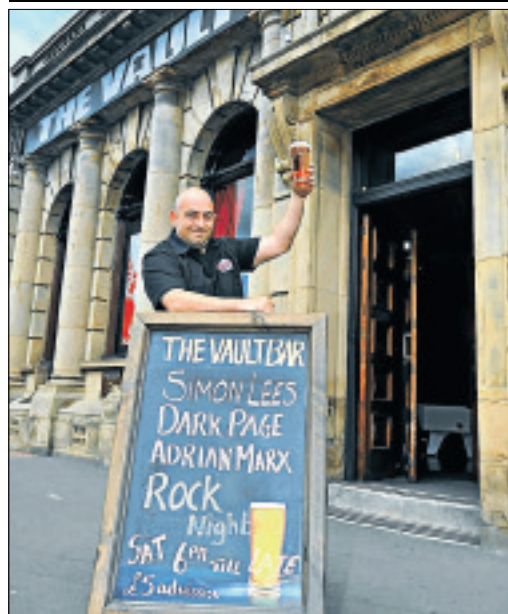
Councillor Turner said: "I have been inundated with calls from residents who are very concerned. It used to be once or twice a year, but it has become a regular occurrence. I am going to speak to the neighbourhood partnership about setting up a long-term strategy to prevent a repeat of this."

"The park is there for children to play, but parents are wary about going there because of the vehicles," He said he wanted to see an embankment or more posts installed to make it impossible for travellers to get in.

He added: "It needs looking at as a matter of urgency."

A Walsall Council spokesman said the latest group left last week.

Live music nights at Vault



John Fiddler at the The Vault live music venue

A new live music venue has launched in Walsall with bosses hoping it will become as well known as JB's or The Robin 2. Owners of The Vault in Darlaston have pumped £80,000 into transforming the club, which used to be a bank.

They hope the family-run venue will help plug a gap in the market following the closure of JB's in Dudley last year and will host tribute acts and live talent. Months of work has been carried out to rewrap the 350-capacity building in Walsall Road, which used to be cabaret bar Kinky Boots.

The venue has been rebuilt inside with a new stage, new DJ booth, monitors and a big screen while new chairs, tables and sofas have all been added. Owner John Fiddler, who is

running The Vault with wife Sonia, 43, said: "We took over the club in November to operate it as a bar and nightclub, trying to compete with the likes of the bigger clubs in Walsall."

"But we couldn't really compete and decided to shut it down for a couple of months."

The father-of-six, aged 40, added: "We have done a lot of work to the place and it will be a nice family-run pub and live music venue."

"We hope it will go on to be as well known as JB's and The Robin 2."

The Vault will serve as a pub from Sundays to Thursdays but will welcome live acts on Fridays and Saturdays. A Cher tribute act will perform at The Vault on July 16, followed by an Elton John tribute on July 23, tribute nights are £5.

Drink driver handed ban

A nightclub assistant manager who was over the drink drive limit when his car crashed has been banned from driving for 18 months.

Nathan John Kelly, aged 21, was also fined £180 for driving with excess alcohol as a red Renault Clio hit a stationary Vauxhall Tigra at the junction of Bloxwich Road and Bloxwich High Street on May 31.

Mr Nigel Ford, defending, told Walsall magistrates Kelly, of Cannon Street, Ryecroft, who admitted the offence, could lose his door supervisors' licence.

He had 88 micrograms of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath. The legal limit is 35. Mr Ford said his client was heading home after working in Stafford when the accident happened last week.

Kelly must also pay £85 costs and £15 victims' surcharge and was advised to attend a drivers' rehabilitation course.

Drumming up event support

A drumming demonstration and a karate display will be among the attractions on offer at a summer fair hosted by a school.

Staff and helpers at Delves Infants School, Botany Road, Walsall, are raising cash to buy pupils high visibility vests for school trips. The fair will be on June 18 from midday to 2.30pm.

Mayor's gala night

The Mayor of Walsall's gala show will be at Pelsall Community Centre on July 15. The show starts at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £5 from the Mayor's office on 01922 652072.

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Town fair aims for success

A Walsall town's annual summer fair takes place this weekend.

The Aldridge Fair will be held on Anchor Meadow, off Middlemore Lane, on June 18.

It has been organised by the Aldridge and District Lions Club, who are working flat out to ensure it's a success.

Lions Club president Clyde Redfern said: "This will be our

17th annual fair in Aldridge and it has raised many thousands of pounds for charities.

"The success of the event is evidenced by the many charity and trade stalls who repeat their bookings each year - many of them 12 months in advance."

Entertainment is promised between 11am and 4pm, with arena acts including the Panther Judo Club and the Jo-Leigh

dancers. It will be opened by mayor of Walsall Councillor Garry Perry. Admission and parking are free.

Organiser John Hand said, "Everything is now in place for a great day out for the whole family."

A car boot sale will run alongside the fair.

To book a space call Keith Price on 01922 457945.

Scrambling the young

More Walsall youngsters are set to benefit from a scrambling motorbike project, which aims to get young people off the streets and reduce anti-social behaviour.

A grant of just over £3,000 has been given by Walsall Housing Group (WHG) to fund a minibus which will take about 10 youngsters from Pheasey to and from a track at the Frank F Harrison Engineering College site, Leamore Lane, twice a week for six

months. The project is run by Walsall Area Partnership, made up of partners including WHG, Walsall Council, West Midlands Police, Walsall College, West Midlands Fire Service and NHS Walsall.

Nitish Patel, WHG's community safety manager, said: "We are delighted to support such a worthwhile project which offers young people enjoyable activities while improving the quality of life for Walsall residents."

Developer takes fight to government

A developer who has seen his plan for a housing development in an upmarket area of Walsall turned down five times is talking his fight to the government.

The scheme for Woodside Close in Park Hall has been in the pipeline for more than three years but has been rejected every time by council planners.

It was refused for the last time in April, when more than 50 objectors packed out the public gallery at Walsall Council House in protest.

But David Stone, who owns the land, is now taking his case to a government appeal to try and get the go-ahead.

It has gone to appeal before but the developer believes there are now stronger grounds for it to win approval after dealing with previous reasons for refusal.

The proposal for 14 apartments in place of the existing house and six flats was turned down despite Walsall Council's planning officers recommending it for approval.

Hopefully

Mr Stone, who also lives on the site, said: "It has been appealed and is in the system. We are waiting on a date from the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol but hopefully it should be some time in August."

"We wouldn't have appealed if we didn't think there were good grounds."

"It was disappointing and it will be interesting to see what the view of the inspectorate is."

The scheme involves demolishing the existing house and flats. The latest application was refused on the grounds that the proposed relocation of a sub-station, which had been a concern with planning inspectors in previous applications, was too close to homes and incongruous on the landscape.

Residents also complained that the scheme was an overdevelopment of the site, and plans for homes rather than flats would be better.

The application sparked an outcry from neighbours with a 248-name petition gathered and more than 68 letters of objection lodged with the council against the plan.

Ideas are wanted over golf course

Ideas and suggestions are being sought to help develop a former council-owned golf course in Walsall into a country park.

Walsall Council has given the go-ahead to a scheme to transform the former Grange Golf Course.

Walsall Arboretum User Group is working in partnership with the council and is urging park users to have their say. A walk will be held around the area under discussion - on June 22 at 6.30pm.

Jackie Cocken, Walsall Arboretum user group projects co-ordinator, said, the walk will help people visualise the area in question and provide a platform for their ideas and suggestions.

The walk starts from the Arboretum Grange car park, off Broadway North.

Anyone who would like to send their views in writing should write to Walsall Arboretum User Group, c/o The Arboretum Top Lodge, Lichfield Street, Walsall, WS4 2BU.

The nine-hole Grange Golf Course closed in 2009 saving Walsall Council £36,000 a year.

Young boxers to show their ring skills at dinner

Young boxers will be packing a punch at a dinner show in Walsall this autumn.

Pleck Amateur Boxing Club will be taking to the ring for an evening of entertainment on October 13 which includes comedian Barry Yorke.

The event takes place at Walsall FC, Bescot Crescent with tickets £30 including a four-course meal. Alternatively it costs £5 on the door for the boxing only. Call 01922 651414.

Thief-proof material plan for war memorial

The copper roof of an historic war memorial repeatedly targeted by metal thieves is poised to be replaced with another material to deter further attacks.

The monument at Barr Beacon has had its distinctive green roof stripped three times, forcing council chiefs to pay out up to £20,000 to replace it.



The war memorial at Barr Beacon which has suffered several attacks

They are now considering covering it with felt at a cost of £6,000 or another virtually worthless material to put the thieves off once and for all. The 50ft memorial and the land around it off Beacon Road, Aldridge, is to benefit from a £500,000 transformation with lottery cash.

Members of the Barr Beacon Trust are looking at a range of materials that may be suitable to repair the war memorial and will be meeting shortly after their weight.

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

to discuss the issue. Vice-chairman councillor Gary Clarke condemned those who committed the crimes.

"It is fantastic asset for Walsall and then you get certain people who come along and ruin it," he said.

"They are just yobs and their actions are outrageous. It is a priority for the war memorial to be repaired and make it more secure."

The monument commemorates men from Staffordshire and Warwickshire who gave their lives in the First World War.

It recently emerged metal thieves are striking more than 15 times each day in the region - an increase of 70 per cent - as homes, businesses and the railways are plundered by thieves cashing in on the rising price of copper and lead.

Raiders struck 840 times around the region in less than two months compared with 495 thefts in the same period last year, figures released in May showed.

Compared

Sandwell was the worst hit borough with 285 recorded thefts there since April 1, compared to 132 in the same period last year.

Dudley saw a rise from 142 to 203 in the number of raids, while in Walsall it nearly doubled from 108 to 202.

Wolverhampton also recorded a rise from 113 to 150.

Recently it was revealed 17 homes in South Staffordshire had been targeted by thieves who ripped lead from canopies above windows and doors.

Police are investigating the attacks which were carried out on homes in Cherry Tree Lane, Bilbrook.

Pupils sock it to the hospital



Eleanor Price, left, Rachael Milne, right, Hollie Farrell, and, front, Ieva Hughes, all aged 13, at The Streety School, Queslett Road East, Walsall

Caring pupils at a Walsall school are celebrating after raising an impressive £4,600 for Birmingham Children's hospital. The 13-year-olds, who attend Streety Sports College and are calling themselves The Odd Socks Committee, sold cakes, teddy bears and took part in a sponsored walk to raise the

bulk of the money. Class ATW, which has 27 pupils, made a total of £4,610 for their efforts.

Their teacher Pauline Astle said: "We had someone in our form who had to go to the children's hospital quite a lot and we thought of doing something to show our support."

Hopes for pub to open

A Willenhall pub which was badly damaged when thieves broke in, could be restored and reopened within a year.

The Bell Inn, Market Place was taken over by a consortium of four community-spirited people in September.

They have decided on the architect they want to complete the restoration of the Grade II listed building.

A member of the group, Stan Taylor, said if the architect accepted their offer, they would work with him and the council to draw up plans for the building as soon as possible.

Drawing

Mr Taylor said: "We have got to the stage where we are almost in a position to start drawing up plans."

He said the group needed to liaise with the architect and Walsall Council before finalising plans, and then they would need to secure grants to fund the project. But he said he hoped it could be ready to open in a year.

Its function has not been decided yet. Thieves broke in and ripped all the electrical wiring out about a month ago, and damaged the roof.

Mr Taylor said: "We aren't bothered about the wiring. But in removing it, the vandals got in to the roof space and climbed up on to the beam. It collapsed, under their weight."

Davro at Banks's

Actor and comedian Bobby Davro will be performing a cabaret dinner show at Banks's Stadium in Walsall later this year.

He will put on a show in Bescot Crescent on October 28. Tickets are £30 including a four-course meal or £18 for the show only. For more information contact 01922 651414.

Mad Dog hoping to pass on grappling skills to new wave

A professional wrestler from Walsall is hoping to pass on his knowledge to a new generation of grapplers at training sessions in Darlaston.

Matthew Powell, who steps into the ring as Mad Dog Maxx, has been wrestling for 12 years and has toured the world.

He will share his experience with youngsters at Darlaston All Active Centre, Willenhall Road, Darlaston, with classes on Saturday mornings

and Tuesday evenings for adults and children.

Matthew, aged 26, of Fullbrook, said: "I've wrestled all over the world. I've wrestled all sorts of stars from the states and beyond."

"Wrestling is the best kind of fitness training I've ever undertaken, it's the biggest confidence booster I've ever known, and there is also the self defence element."

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Firm struggles to find qualified leather staff

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A lack of suitable qualifications is hampering a Walsall leather firm's expansion as it seeks to fill 11 jobs with none of the 90 people who have so far applied having the necessary skills.

Bosses at Marlborough World were hoping for an influx of skilled workers but despite all the applications, they say virtually none have the right qualifications.

Instead, shop workers and manual workers are battling for the positions, sparking boss Richard Taylor to urge experienced leather workers to apply. The job vacancies were announced just over two months ago, after Marlborough World moved its base.

It transferred from Oxford Street, Bilston, to a base three times the size in Fairground Way, Walsall.

The company is hoping to employ 10 leather preparers and one leather cutter by August to add to its team of 12.

He said: "We've had about 90 applications. We haven't taken anyone on yet but we will be doing more interviews in the next two weeks. We will probably need 10 leather preparers and one leather cutter."

Experience

Mr Taylor said he had expected the company to receive many more applications from people with experience in the industry.

He added: "Some of the people applying have been warehouse workers, some have worked in shops and some have just left school. Some people are trying to go for any type of job because they want to get into work."

"It is a specialist trade but there are enough people out there who have the experience. Whether or not they want to come back into the leather industry, I don't know."

The firm said its sales were on track to increase by up to 20 per cent next year.

Later this year, it is also hoping to work closely with Walsall College and offer training schemes for youngsters keen to learn the trade.

Founded in 1972, the company is now exporting goods around the world with customers in America, Japan and Europe.

Mr Taylor said the move to Walsall had put the firm at the centre of the leather industry.

The move also means the firm has been able to expand its range, adding briefcases, luggage and games sets to its selection of jewellery boxes and shooting accessories.

Day to remember at contest

A junior Mr Memory from Walsall proved he has one of the best recalls in England after coming in the top three of a national competition.

Aditya Dhiran from Willenhall was among 20 youngsters to make the final of the Junior Memory Championships at London Zoo.

Around 7,000 boys and girls entered the competition to test their memories by having to remember complex numbers, names, words and faces.

Among his achievements, the Lodge Farm JMI pupil scored 40 out of 40 in the names and faces and nine out of 10 in the text section.

The 11-year-old, who has secured a place at King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys in Kings Heath, said: "I was really happy and shocked to have received the third place."

Headteacher Ashley Winters said: "It is clear that the benefits of entering the JMC, is more far reaching than one can imagine."

The youngster will celebrate his success by enjoying Adventure Week at Boreatton Park, near Shrewsbury, where he will go with his teacher and all his Year 6 classmates.



Aditya Dhiran who came third in the national Junior Memory Championships



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Fury at sex offender housed in bail hostel

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

A convicted paedophile was housed in a controversial bail hostel in Aldridge – less than two miles from a child he was suspected of grooming, an MP has revealed.

Conservative Richard Shepherd told Prisons Minister Crispin Blunt he was "greatly disturbed" when the sex offender visited him at his constituency surgery in March. He has since been removed from the hostel in Stonnall Road.

The Aldridge-Brownhills MP made the disclosure while highlighting constituents' concerns about the hostel.

He branded it a "nightmare" and slammed its "inappropriate" location in a populated neighbourhood, near schools.

Spearheading a Westminster debate about the site – previously a Barnardo's children's home – the MP demanded its "closure or removal" from the area.

Closure

Campaigners have been involved in a long-running battle going back to the 1980s to force the closure of the bail hostel, which can house up to 12 offenders released from prison on licence.

Walsall councillors Anthony Harris, Keith Sears and Mike Flower have also written to the Ministry of Justice demanding to know what types of criminals are sent to the hostel.

"At no point has the community ever had a say on what this building should be used for. People have watched 'powerlessly' as the use of the building has materially changed," they argued.

"I can verify almost everything they say," said Mr Shepherd. "It has been a frustrating and long journey to try and wake up the probation service to a judgement they took by deceit," he added.

Mr Blunt insisted the Government's arrangements for managing offenders were "robust and effective".

However, he conceded: "Clearly there will always be cases that slip through the net. Risk can never be eliminated entirely. But the data shows that offending rates for those held in approved premises are much better than those who are not."

Pet charity in appeal for help

An animal charity in Walsall is on the lookout for more dog and cat fosterers as it marks its 50th birthday.

The Midlands Animal Rescue Team is registered in Park Hall, Walsall but rescues and rehomes 100-150 cats and 40 to 50 dogs each year across the Midlands.

It has no kennels and relies on its 10 fosterers to take care of the rescued animals before they are rehomed.

The charity relies on fundraising and donations to keep afloat and costs £50,000 a year to run.

It is supported by a team of eight volunteers who help fundraise and run a charity shop in Castlecroft Road, Wolverhampton.

Secretary Eileen Webb said: "Reaching 50 years is an achievement but it's sad there still needs to be an animal rescue group."

"We have 24 cats which need rehoming. Our fosterers live all over the Midlands but there's a shortage of them."

Anyone who wants to become a fosterer, to donate or to help with fundraising can call Mrs Webb on 0121 358 0251.



Committee member Jackie Smart, left, of Great Barr and secretary Eileen Webb, of Walsall, with Summer the cat. They are appealing for more fosterers

10 qualify as religious tour guides

A group of 10 Walsall people are now faith guides, qualifying them to give tours of their respective churches and temples. People from the Christian, Hindu and Sikh faiths received their badges and certi-

icates at a ceremony at Elmwood School, Rushall. They had successfully completed a 12-week course accredited by the Institute of Tourist Guiding, which took place at Blue Coat School.

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Council 'vendetta' against car owners will ruin town

Dear Sir,
What a mess and nightmare Walsall Council has created for the town's residents, businesses and visitors with its ill-thought out parking restrictions, fees and army of enforcement officers.

Instead of thinking of ways to improve the visitor numbers to our town and to serve those who pay council taxes and business rates, they seem to think it is their elected duty just to make life a misery and impossible for everyone.

The latest news that pensioners living in areas close to the town where there is restricted parking for residents and visitors only, will no longer have free permits and will have to pay the newly increased fees, which are now rising from £20 to £40 for all residents, is once again confirmation that Walsall Council has a vendetta against anyone who owns a car.

The reason resident-only parking permits came about was to ease the parking for residents where people parked for free to visit the town, preventing residents from parking.

However, if the Council had a free period of one to two hours on its car parks and one hour free on-street parking, as it did before the arrival of the new pay and "dismay" parking machines, there would be no need for shoppers to park in residential areas and there would be no requirement for resident only parking permits.

This issue for those residents affected now needs strong action against the council such as a protest, starting with a petition.

If the Council still refuse to act for the benefit of those who pay their council taxes, the residents will need to warn of the threat of civil disobedience by an organised refusal to pay or display

permits, then challenge any prosecutions in the courts.

Walsall is blighted by the council's urge to squeeze as much money out of motorists as possible. Residents are suffering as they object to paying these additional fees, their property is possibly blighted too as few potential purchasers would want to buy a house where they have to pay to park outside their own home.

Businesses are being hurt and jobs threatened. Soon there will be no parking problems in Walsall, the town will be closed and boarded up as most businesses will have been driven out by the lack of customers who don't want to pay high parking fees or find loose change just to park their cars for a short time to buy a newspaper or other items.

Derek Bennett,
Walsall UKIP
Branch Chairman

Thanks for your support

Dear Sir,
I would like to thank all those residents of St Matthew's Ward who voted for me in the May local elections.

I must also thank the people who helped me in so many practical ways during the election campaign.

As the first Labour councillor in St Matthew's for some time, I hope to be a fair representative of all sections of the community.

My weekly Saturday surgeries will be running between 10 and 10.45am at Croft House Union Street.

Then there will be further surgeries at Walsall Central Library from 11 to 11.45am and they will be in the room at the back of children's library.

These will start from June 11.

Meanwhile I may be contacted by telephone or text on 07903 442136 or you can get in touch via email eileenrussell@live.co.uk

Eileen Russell
Labour Councillor
St Matthew's ward.

Fingerpointing over dropping litter from vehicles is open to abuse

Dear Sir,
I read the letter from Rob Pepper on how to get the law changed re: littering from cars. Sounds good with a petition to sign.

Few of you will remember a seven-month battle I had with Walsall Council from July 2006 until February 2007.

I was accused of spitting chewing gum from my white (silver) Golf in Station Street (Station Road), or if not me, my passengers for whom I was also responsible. The evidence was

flawed because I hadn't done it, the council worker had just about everything he could get wrong.

Yet I was treated like a criminal, taped interviews, threats of a fine of £2,500 with costs of £1,500 if I didn't pay a fine of £80.

At no time did I receive a fine of £80! It went to Court, they didn't turn up. Why? Because of my age, 75 going into 76 and the state of my health. My health was superb until the end of this inglorious battle. I doubt it ever recovered.

Mr Pepper, you would give

"pointing powers of guilt" to a council worker with targets to reach? The law of this land requires evidence. Please let's keep it that way.

Finally, cost. How much to employ people to look out for car littering?

How much to employ street cleaners to pick up litter?

Can't be much in it. One way stinks and is open to abuse.

The other is positive, encouraging and faultless. You choose!

Cyril Randle,
Walsall.

Where is the justice for these animals

Dear Sir,
Here we go again! Yet another report on animal cruelty, when will we see justice for these acts of sheer cruelty.

How anyone can mistreat an animal by neglect or through starvation, is beyond me, and any other animal lover.

A case reported by your newspaper in last week's Chronicle is prime example, unconditional bail set with a maybe jail sentence, maximum I dare say being six months, which I believe is the most you get for whatever cruel acts an animal will experience. Well it's not enough!

Come on you people who have the power to see justice done on behalf of animal welfare. Reports of this nature make people such as me so angry. If you can't look after a pet properly - don't have them!

S Creed,
Pelsall.

Chance to sign up for run and give charity a boost

Dear Sir,
World Cancer Research Fund (WCRF) is offering runners the chance to sign up for one of the most prestigious road races of the year - the British 10k in London.

We have limited places for runners for the July 10 event, which takes in sights including Trafalgar Square and St Paul's Cathedral.

WCRF is calling on runners to sign up for the race by emailing events@wcrf.org, visiting our website at www.wcrf.org or calling 020 7343 4200.

Sian Fraser,
Events Fundraiser,
WCRF

Do you have something to say? Then write to Walsall Chronicle, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES or email walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk. Letters are published at the editor's discretion and may be edited. All letters and emails MUST include a full name, address and contact number.

Call for compulsory microchipping

Dear Sir,
As part of National Microchipping month, we are calling on the government to introduce compulsory microchipping for all UK dogs.

Microchipping is the most effective way of ensuring lost dogs are returned to their owners. However of the 8.2

million pet dogs in the UK, more than a third remain unidentifiable. In 2010 Local Authorities took in more than 121,000 strays.

Dealing with these dogs cost an estimated £2.9 million of taxpayer money. If more dogs were microchipped, more could be returned to their owners and the cost to local authorities should be

vastly reduced. Of those dogs taken in by local authorities last year, 6,404 were put to sleep. Compulsory microchipping would also mean fewer dogs lose their lives unnecessarily.

Clarissa Baldwin OBE
Chief Executive of
Dogs Trust and Chairman of
Microchipping Alliance



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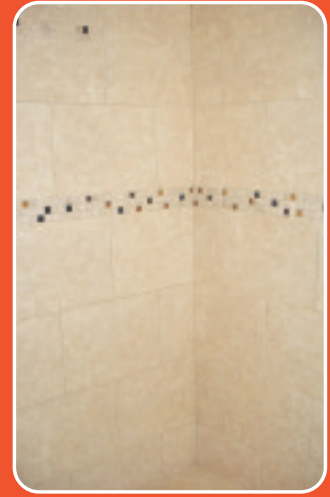


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Manor's car parking income falls

A Walsall Manor Hospital raised more than £738,000 in a year from car parking charges – £20,000 less than it made during the previous 12 months.

The fall in income at Walsall Manor Hospital comes after staff and patients chose to clog up surrounding streets instead rather than fork out parking fees. But hospital chiefs have insisted the drop in cash was down to offering staff a reduced fee while spaces were lost during changes to the site layout.

Two new car parks offering more than 400 spaces were opened to the public last week in the hope years of parking woes around the hospital will finally end.

Spokeswoman Annabel Smith said: "We

had to keep moving the staff car park into different areas. We tried to encourage staff to park on the Manor Keys side and they could park there for a reduction in fee."

The two new patient car parks are placed in more central positions within the grounds of the hospital off Moat Road and Wilbraham Road. There is a combined 450 spaces. The Belle Vue car park with more than 150 spaces has been handed over to staff with moves to increase its size in the pipeline.

It is hoped the changes will make parking easier for patients and visitors and tackle the problem of cars clogging nearby roads. In the past police have

towed away vehicles from residential streets.

A pay on foot system operates at the hospital where the charge is £2 for the first hour and £1 per hour afterwards up to a maximum daily fee of £6. Weekly concessionary passes are available for regular visitors at a charge of £10 per week.

Lincoln Dawkin, interim commercial director at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust said: "The revenue generated by Walsall Manor Hospital's patient and visitor car park charges is reinvested into the operational running costs of the hospital.

"This then contributes to the overall running costs for all of the patient and visitor car parking areas."

Charity handed a boost

A charity has been given £1,000 to help support children and young people.

Walsall Bereavement Support Service developed a children and young people's support service called, The Swing.

Cash, from the Skipton Building Society Charitable Foundation, will help use play and creative resources to support children.

Elaine Bullen, service head of service, said: "Bereavement is a traumatic event at any age but for children and young people especially, the loss of a parent, grandparent, sibling or close family member can be devastating.

"This generous donation means we can continue delivering support to bereaved children and young people in Walsall by using creative methods that help them to understand and express their grief in a way that is comfortable and at times enjoyable for them."

Rotarians donate £50,000 to hospice

A fundraising drive by a team of Rotarians has raised £50,000 for St Giles Walsall Hospice.

The Rotary Club of Walsall marked the Rotary movement's centenary year in 2005 by making the hospice its principal charity.

A host of fundraising activities including the popular annual Walsall 10K run have helped boost the total along the way.

Last week, representatives of the rotary club were given a tour of the £5 million hospice which recently opened in Goscote Lane, Goscote.

David Vodden, speakers' secretary for Rotary Club of Walsall which marks its 90th anniversary this year, said: "Walsall is a big place with a quarter of a million people in it but until St Giles' services arrived in Walsall we didn't have a hospice of our own."

"That meant people had to travel miles out of the area for treatment which was far from an ideal situation for patients and their families."

"The last thing they wanted to be worrying about was transport and whether they may have to stay overnight."



Members of The Rotary Club of Walsall visit St Giles Walsall Hospice

"To have such a facility on our doorstep is a real blessing for the local population. The work St Giles Walsall Hospice does, catering for people in their last days in such a civilised and caring way, means a lot to the people in the area."

Bosses at St Giles Walsall Hospice thanked all those involved in the fundraising effort. Chief executive Peter Holliday said: "The incredible sum of

£50,000 has gone a long way towards helping the hospice to provide an exceptional standard of care for patients and their families."

Rotarian Cliff Hubbard has been the driving force behind the fundraising, initially by naming the hospice as one of the group's appointed charities for his presidency in 2003, and latterly as chairman of the centenary committee.

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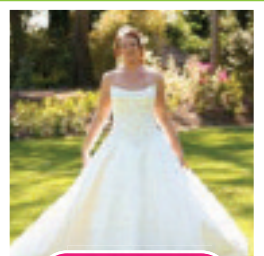


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Pat	2st 7lbs	28 1/2 inches	8 Weeks	Glenda	1st 2lbs	17 inches	9 Weeks
Claire	1st 2lbs	19 1/2 inches	10 Weeks	Denise	1st 1lb	17 1/2 inches	8 Weeks
Kathleen	1st 4lbs	10 1/2 inches	8 Weeks	Ann	1st 3lbs	11 inches	8 Weeks
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Hundreds fined over illegal school parking

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Hundreds of parents across the region have been fined for illegally parking outside school gates.

More than 450 fixed penalty charges of £70 were handed out by enforcement officers in the last year as part of council crackdowns on cars clogging up roads.

The tickets were given to drivers who parked on zig-zag lines where cars are banned during school hours. Those who paid the fine within 14 days saw it reduced to £35.

There were 52 handed out in Cannock, 33 in Walsall, 15 in Dudley and eight in Stafford. Council bosses insist the aim is to stop inconsiderate parking and increase child safety.

In Sandwell a total of 235 penalty tickets were given out between May 2010 and April this year with a further 118 in Wolverhampton over the last 12 months.

Priority

Neighbourhood chief at Sandwell Council, councillor Derek Rowley said: "We regard child safety as a top priority and, as a result, we work closely with both schools and the local community to regulate parking outside school entrances."

Alistair Merrick, Wolverhampton City Council assistant director for city services, said: "Our aim is to prevent and deter dangerous and inconsiderate parking, ensuring the safety of pedestrians and other road users and penalty charge notices are only issued after efforts to dissuade such inappropriate parking."

A crackdown in Cannock included the Ziggy Zaggy scheme.

Youngsters wearing high-visibility jackets are helping to patrol roads immediately around primary schools to issue warning postcards to offenders.

Pupils from Whetstone Field Primary in Aldridge raised cash for four special warning signs.

Kittens dumped in cardboard box

Four kittens who are now being fostered in Walsall were abandoned in a soaking wet cardboard box in a park.

The 10-week old pets were dumped in Oldbury's Tividale Park but are now looking for a new home.

However, the Walsall branch of the RSPCA said it was at breaking point as more and more people abandon their cats due to spiralling costs during the recession. Welfare co-ordinator Becky Weeks said the charity was now in desperate need of cat foster carers.

"Every day, we pick up around six messages from people saying they want to give their cats up," Miss Weeks said.

Abandoned

"A lot of people are saying that they can't afford them. There are also more and more cats being abandoned."

"It's heartbreaking when they are brought into us after being dumped, if the owners would have just called us, we would have done something to help."

The four kittens named Kenai, Sox, Hermione and Harriet are now in the care of Vicky Harrison.

The 23-year-old usually looks after rabbits but the charity is so over-run with cats, she has stepped in to help.

The kittens were cold and soaked through when they were found and had picked up cat flu, of which they are now cured.

"Two of the kittens are absolutely adorable but the other two are a little nervous. But it's nothing a little TLC couldn't cure," Miss Harrison said. Walsall branch of the RSPCA has two cat foster carers on its books but is looking to get to at least five.

Miss Weeks added: "The branch is run entirely by volunteers and we do not have a centre so all the animals are kept in private foster homes with members of the public."



Foster carer Vicky Harrison with cats Kenai and Sox

"Walsall RSPCA covers postcode areas WS1 to WS10. We have to turn away so many cats in need on a daily basis."

"There is no cost to the fosterer - Walsall RSPCA will pay all vets bills, supply all food and equipment needed, all we ask is the foster is over 18, has access to transport for emergency vets visits, if required, and a loving, secure home to offer the cats/kittens whilst we try to find them a permanent home."

Anyone interested in fostering can call 0845 272 3570 for more details.

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Dream of top show for Samantha



Samantha Dorrance

A Willenhall teenager has hit all the right notes after landing a leading part in a top West End show.

Samantha Dorrance has been selected to play Laura in musical Dreamboats and Petticoats.

The 19-year-old has previously starred in her own show on the Disney Channel.

The Walsall College student has pulled out all the stops to complete her Btec national diploma in music before she heads to London to begin touring this month.

She has always had a passion for acting and singing and filmed

a show in America with the cast of High School Musical.

"I'm really excited to have landed a leading role in Dreamboats and Petticoats. It's going to be hard work and I will really miss my family but it will be worth it."

"This is my perfect job, the character I am playing is just like me and it combines singing and dancing while being on stage with a live band."

"In the future I want to carry on working in theatre, television and music."

"I want to be well-respected in

the industry." Samantha also paid tribute to her fellow performers and tutors at Walsall College.

"The tutors have been so understanding and supportive," she added. "I will miss everybody and hope to stay in touch." Staff at the college expressed their pride at seeing their former student head to the West End.

Marion Spencer, music lecturer at Walsall College, said: "Sam has worked consistently well throughout her two years. Congratulations to her for having juggled her professional engagements very successfully."

Calls for imperial measures

Market traders in Walsall want to see imperial measurements back on their stalls.

Their call is being backed by West Midlands MEP Mike Nattrass.

Shopkeepers who flout the laws following metrification risk prosecution.

However, traders at Walsall Market are now calling for change after supermarket giant Asda started stocking 1lb punnets of strawberries on its shelves for the first time in 16 years.

Mr Nattrass said more should be done to promote and protect imperial measurements.

"Schoolchildren should learn more about imperial measurements. It would be sad to see our traditional British measures die out altogether."

Karen Sands, former chairman of Walsall Market Traders Association, said: "The majority of our customers ask for things in imperial measurements. It would be lovely to have pounds and ounces back."

Booked up for the fun of reading

Parents and children who love reading shared their passion at libraries across Walsall as part of National Bookstart Week.

The literary celebrations were aimed at families with pre-school children.

One event which took place was at Walsall Central Library.

Activities included arts and crafts and storytime and poetry sessions.

Early years librarian Alison Dunn said: "Sharing stories is a great way for children to learn about the world around them from an early age and is something they can enjoy alongside their parents."

"As part of the Bookstart week of celebrations we have events lined up. It is also a great opportunity for parents to come together and share a love for the numerous children's books which are available." To find out more, call 01922 653110 or drop into local branches.



Millie Johnson, aged 16 months, with her mother Amanda and Alison Dunn

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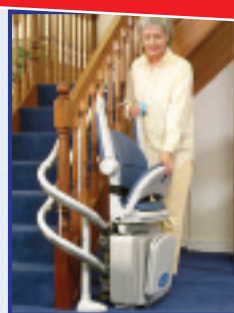
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Grand gateway plans killed off by red tape

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

A city council has admitted its red tape has killed off grand plans to regenerate a gateway between Wolverhampton and Walsall on a site which has lain empty for four years.

Wolverhampton City Council has admitted putting too many planning conditions on the site in Portobello, deterring would-be developers by killing off their chance to make a profit.

The site, on the junction of the A454 Willenhall Road and Keyway, was previously occupied by three 1960s tower blocks.

These were alongside garage courts, a tenants' meeting room and a block of shops and maisonettes.

With the exception of the shops and maisonettes, which are all empty, the site is now cleared.

Apartments

The council came up with a list of what it wanted, including a row of apartments along the edge of the site.

But developers were never able to come up with a scheme that would have been "viable", particularly once the housing market collapsed.

The stringent conditions that have now been removed included demanding homes met a higher than normal level of energy efficiency they were more eco-friendly.

Council housing chief Richard Wassell, said: "A second marketing exercise was undertaken earlier this year based on these revised planning guidelines, with a deadline for offers of March 17. Unfortunately, despite significant interest during the marketing period, no offers were received."

"Feedback from developers to this second marketing exercise suggested the aspiration for a perimeter block form of development apartments was unrealistic, and that the only way to achieve a viable scheme in this form would be to introduce a commercial use."

"Given its out-of-centre location and the fact that the site is identified for housing, this is not considered to be an appropriate option."

The council is now going to advertise the land for development again in September.

Would Yew believe it?

For 40 years it has been without a sign with nothing to point visitors in the right direction.

But residents of the Yew Tree estate are celebrating after a new road sign was installed.

It now means visitors can find their way to the estate more easily.

A sign was originally removed in the 1970s when the dual carriage way was laid between Stone Cross, Sandwell and Delves, Walsall.

But it was never replaced, and vice-chairman of the residents' association for Yew Tree and Tame Bridge, Roy Jones got on to the case after it was suggested at a meeting.

At last a new sign has arrived and Mr Jones says he could not be more pleased with the move.

Mr Jones, aged 67, of Larchwood Road, Yew Tree, said: "It's important because with the community centre, there are a lot of people who come from other areas to use it when they have bowls tournaments and things like that."

Now those teams are being informed and will see the new sign when they visit.

He said he was helped along by Councillor Tom Ansell, portfolio holder for transport at Walsall Council.



Roy Jones and Andy Perry from Walsall Council with the new road sign.

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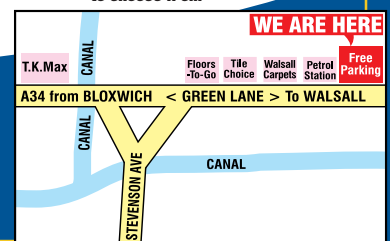
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Waiting list for allotments

Hundreds of people are on waiting lists for allotments in the region, according to new figures.

Plots across the region are full as people look to grow their own fruit and veg - with a waiting list of 153 people in Walsall. One person has even been on a waiting list for more than six years.

Those putting their names down have increased during the recession.

There are 203 plots at 10 council managed sites in the

borough, with a further 1,186 plots at 24 sites under the control of local management associations.

Dovedale Avenue allotments in Willenhall has the longest waiting list with 33 people on it, with one person on there since November 2004.

The shortest waiting list is at Alfred Street in Bloxwich, with just five on stand-by.

Leisure chief Councillor Anthony Harris, said plots at sites with shorter waiting lists

can become available within a year.

"At others, the wait is more considerable but in some cases people on the list have been offered a plot but have opted to turn it down because they feel it is unsuitable for them and prefer to wait until an alternative becomes free," he added.

"It is a pastime we are keen to encourage and we are always looking at possible ways in which we can help people spend time in the great outdoors."

Church cooks up help after council cuts

A Walsall church has launched a lunch club for pensioners following a shake-up of the council's meals-on-wheels service.

Green Lane Baptist Church is providing people with hot meals, homemade cakes and drinks after the council ended its contract with meals-on-wheels provider Sodexo to save £1 million over three years.

The lunch club forms part of the church's Mend It scheme, which also includes a sewing club, English language classes and aerobics.

Mend It co-ordinator Valerie Morris said the Thursday club was started in response to the council's shake-up and to help the community.

Netball on the campus

Netball sessions aimed at attracting former players back into the game are being held.

The Fit4Net classes at Wolverhampton University's campus in Gorway Road, Walsall, run every Tuesday in June from 6-7pm and cost £4. Call 01902 605500.



Two lunch club volunteers Shehnaz Begum and Guddhi Lal cook up a storm at the Mend It project

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Veteran councillor Bill is honoured



Councillor Bill Madeley MBE who has represented residents for 40 years

Former Mayor of Walsall and veteran councillor Bill Madeley who has represented residents for 40 years has been honoured by friends and colleagues for his long service to the borough.

A framed photograph of Councillor Madeley has been hung in the foyer of the council chamber to mark his achievement. He is only the fourth councillor to have reached the milestone.

His picture was hung alongside those of the Freeman of the borough the late Bert Smith and Arthur Toon, and former councillor Phil Wood at a special ceremony at the Walsall Council House, Lichfield Street on Friday. He was joined by more than 35 guests including family, council staff and councillors.

The Labour representative was first elected to Walsall Council in 1971 in Bentley ward which later became Bentley and Darlaston North, a seat he stills holds.

He was Mayor in 1988 and Leader of the Council from January to May 1999. He was awarded the MBE in 2006 for services to the community and was made an Honorary Freeman of the borough in 2010.

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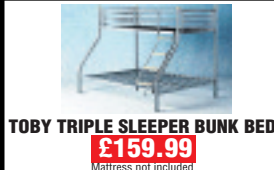
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Change of name for steel company

A famous engineering firm in the Black Country has changed its name following a £27 million takeover.
Willenhall-based Niagara LaSalle is now called Acenta Steel Ltd.
Chief executive Tarlok Singh said a new name was part of the firm's future plans, which include expansion into world markets with new jobs on the horizon.
The reason for our name change is simple," Mr Singh said. "We are no longer part of Niagara Construction in America

but as a significant proportion of our sales are to North America we needed to avoid confusion with our former colleagues.
"It's only our name that has changed. The organisational structure remains the same.
"The long-term strategy of the company remains the same: to be the first choice of supplier for engineering steels, to grow our business in world markets, to provide the extensive range of products that customers require and to continually improve

our levels of service." Earlier this year, Endless LLP, which specialises in investing in and turning around businesses, took over Niagara LaSalle.
Niagara LaSalle was forced to close its Ductile Wesson Victoria Steelworks in Moxley back in 2009, losing more than 130 jobs.
The business now employs 85 people in Planetary Road but there are plans in the pipeline for a "modest amount" of new staff to be taken on.

Review hope for axed bus

An axed bus service through Darlaston is being reviewed, bringing fresh hope that it will be reinstated after more than two years.
The 639 route was scrapped by National Express West Midlands in January 2009 because of low passenger numbers, but it sparked a protest.

As part of the review into the Wolverhampton and West Walsall Bus network it has been confirmed that the route, along Darlaston Road between Darlaston and Wednesbury, forms part of the review.

Councillor Paul Bott has led the campaign which reached Parliament. A 120-name petition was launched to overturn the decision.

Now, in a letter to councillor Bott, Kerry Meredith, customer relations team leader at Centro, said: "A members' meeting is being set up for late June to inform councillors of any changes to bus services in the area."

"We will then be able to update Councillor Bott as to the outcome of the review."

Action call on derelict hospital building

It has undergone a £170 million transformation, but a derelict building dating back more than 150 years is proving to be a blot on the landscape at Walsall Manor Hospital.

Millions of pounds have been pumped into a revamp of the hospital site, with a futuristic atrium entrance leading to modern wards and corridors.

But the former Board of Guardians building on Pleck Road stands empty and dilapidated, obscuring the view of the new look facilities.

Owners

Calls have now been made for the boarded-up Grade II listed building to be brought back to life.

Manor bosses are now to hold talks with its private owners in a bid to get the building, which dates from 1838, restored.

It housed administrators of the workhouse, which provided resources for the poor of the borough, until it gradually merged with the hospital in the 1950s.

Pleck councillor Dennis Anson is leading calls for the Board of Guardians to be revitalised.

He said: "I don't want it demolished, I would like to see it done up and used by the hospital."

"It could be offices as it is in



Calling for action - Councillor Dennis Anson, at the Manor Hospital, Walsall

their own grounds and is an historic part of the hospital. At present it is an eyesore but if it was done up it would look beautiful."

Richard Kirby, chief executive of Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, said: "We agree the Board of

Guardians building is not in keeping with the rest of our estate and we need to agree with the owner how best to make use of it in the future."

"We will therefore be making contact again with the owner to take this forward."

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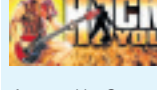
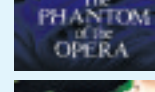
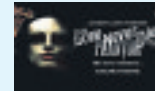
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Dancing to boost hospice

Fundraisers can start practising their dance moves and register for a sponsored Strictly Dance-athon for St Giles Walsall Hospice.

People will be able to try all kinds of dance from Zumba and salsa to hip-hop, cheerleading, ballroom and Bollywood.

The event will last 12 hours, with teams of four swapping in and out all day long at Darlston All Active Club, Willenhall Road, on October 8 from 9am-9pm.

Teams of four must pay £20 to enter and they are asked to raise £150 in sponsorship.

To register, telephone 01922 602520 or send an email to: rachel.ridler@walsall.nhs.uk.

£150,000 for bridge works

Repairs to three bridges over a disused railway will cost £150,000.

Repairs are being done in Bloxwich Road, near the junction with Norfolk Place, Walsall.

Work is due to start soon on the Proffitt Street, Walsall, bridge.

Work at a bridge in Green Lane, Birchills, near the junction with Stephenson Avenue, has been completed.

Day of fun

Children from Walsall schools will take part in a fun day at the town's arboretum later this month. Music and drumming, yoga, bhangra dancing and a bouncy castle will be among the attractions on June 25 from 11am to 3pm.

Family provides clues to fascinating character

Mystery of captain's animal magic solved

Feeding polar bears and enticing lions to balance on stools was all in a day's work for animal trainer Herbert Clarke in the late 1800s.

However, historians have been scratching their heads about where to find any details on one of Walsall's most fascinating characters, who ran away to join the circus at age 12 – until now.

Captain Herbert's first test as a budding animal trainer was when he was thrust into a cage full of wolves. They promptly ripped his trousers from him before he was able to scramble out.

The next time he took the advice of another circus trainer to take a stick in with him to show he was not afraid – and this time he came out on top.

Unlocked

The mystery surrounding the colourful life of Capt Herbert, who travelled the world and progressed from wagon boy to lion tamer and settled in Leamore, has now been unlocked after photos and information from his relatives found their way to historian Stuart Williams at the town's local history centre in Essex Street.

Mr Williams was approached by Capt Clarke's family after he provided some of the history of the famous Pat Collins funfair to Walsall Library.

Capt Clarke's relatives asked him why the lion tamer was nowhere to be seen in the display, and when Mr Williams replied that very little was known about him, they provided all the information he needed to gain a proper picture of the larger-than-life character.

It took him six months to scan the photos and put all the information together for an online account.

Mr Williams said today: "I was so amazed by him, I wanted to pay tribute to him. You just don't hear stories like his locally."

"There are lots of stories of people who have done great things, but nothing quite



Lions striking a pose with trainer Capt Herbert Clarke

like a lion tamer." Seeking a sense of adventure, Capt Clarke ran away from home aged 12, and by 15 he had joined Bostock and Wombwell's menagerie as a wagon boy.

Before he was 20 he had travelled across the world, including Africa, and was putting lions, tigers and even bears through their paces. While working for the Frank C Bostock

circus training bears in England, he met his wife Ethel Stella Cork, a fellow trainer of big cats, and they married on December 7, 1912.

For his last few years as a lion tamer, from the 1920s to early 1930s, Captain Clarke joined the legendary Pat Collins Amusement Empire. He and his wife bought a newsagents in Beeches Road, Leamore, Walsall, when

they retired from training, and the Clarke family remained in Leamore until around 1955, when they moved to Brownhills.

In 1965 Captain Herbert Vincent Clarke died, aged 81, at his home in Watling Street, and his wife followed him just 14 days later.

For the complete history of him, log on to www.thebloxidgetallygraph.com



With a polar bear while working for the Frank C Bostock circus



Capt Clarke in the cage.

Pictures courtesy of Stuart Williams

Authors boosting libraries' visitors

Libraries experienced a boom in visitor numbers during its Big Book Fortnight.

The two-week campaign in Walsall last month included visits from authors and drew in around 300 people.

Authors John Boyne, Rosie Goodwin, Gaynor Arnold and Anne Bennett were among the guests.

Big Book Fortnight is an annual event – now in its third year – where libraries in Walsall, Dudley, Sandwell and Wolverhampton arrange author events, cradle clubs and reading groups to promote reading and library services.

Events

Walsall Council has said some visitors who had never set foot in the borough's libraries before spoke enthusiastically about the events.

Jane Jones, aged 43, of Leamore, Walsall, met author Gaynor Arnold at Walsall Library, and said it was the "quickest and most pleasant" hour she had spent in a long time.

She said: "It was my first author event and I'd looked forward to the experience very much. It was very interesting listening to Gaynor speak about her latest book and her previous work."

Sonia Dixon, adult library services co-ordinator from Walsall Library Service said: "The month of May has been an extremely exciting time for our library members and many others who attended our author events. To find out more go to www.whatsonwalsall.co.uk.

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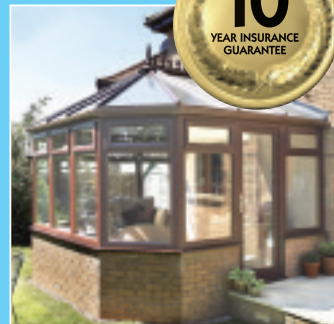
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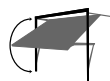
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REVIEWS

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Dragon's tale is well told in glossy biopic

YOUNG BRUCE LEE

YOUNG Bruce Lee with Aarif Rahman in the title role is obviously a high-budget, high-production value film and equal to any biopic Hollywood could turn out. It is tightly scripted and well acted by an impressive cast.

YBL charts the life of the screen and martial arts legend from his birth until he departs Hong Kong for America aged 19. Even though this is an excellent production it could have been made by the Bruce Lee appreciation society, it is very fawning and almost seeks to deify Lee but at the same time doesn't really give any new insights into the life of the kung fu master.

Lee grew up in a well-heeled middle class Chinese family in Hong Kong. He lived in a well-to-do area of the city and he was famous as a film star in his own right before he reached the US.

He had a pretty privileged upbringing, never went short of anything and spent his early years, like any lad, hanging around with his friends and getting into mischief.

If any Lee fans are looking for a kung fu film they will be sadly disappointed. The only fight scenes are one of a boxing match which is formulaic and secondly a street fight which owes more to a directorial tribute to Lee's film *Way of the Dragon* than any actual event. This may appeal to Lee purists but perhaps less to fans of his films and martial arts skills.

The extras on this disc are also pretty disappointing with talking heads and still shots from a couple of people who knew and worked with Lee. Strangely enough there are no film clips either of his movies or of him at home or training. Also noticeable by their absence are any of Lee's family, his widow, daughter, co-stars or any of the many others you would expect to see.

Young Bruce Lee is out now on two disc ultimate edition DVD and Blu-ray Cert 15.

WEST IS WEST

It's been a long time coming but anyone thinking the sequel to the hit British film *East is East* was going to be more of the same



Aqib Khan as Sajid is forced to rediscover his Pakistani heritage

from the Khan family will be disappointed.

This offering is a voyage of discovery, deeper, more thought provoking and certainly doesn't have the earthy wit and humour of the first film.

Wiw reunites only some of the cast from the original Salford family outing with Jimi Mistry making a cameo appearance, it seems, purely because he can.

Head of the family George, played excellently by Om Puri decides the runt of his litter Sajid, Aqib Khan, is too British and needs to connect with his heritage in Pakistan.

So, much to his protest and under false pretences, his father transports both of them back to the homeland where he hopes to keep him until he has learned to be Pak-

istani again. What happens is a voyage of self-discovery for all the Khan family especially George as he realises his vision of being a good Pakistani husband, father and man doesn't necessarily tally with how his two families in Asia and England perceive him.

There are some genuine comic moments, and there are references to the first film which those who haven't seen it won't get, as Sajid discovers a whole new side to his character.

George has an epiphany realising, as he is confronted by Mrs Khan No1 and Mrs Khan No2, played again by excellent actress Linda Bassett who flies in from Blighty to rescue her youngest son, why he left Pakistan in the first place.

West is West is out on DVD and Blu-ray on June 20. Cert 15

Danny Farragher

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Following on the heels of the Julia Bradbury's *Wainwright Walks*, the TV adventurer has turned her attention to some more accessible routes for those wanting a stroll rather than a breathless Lakeland challenge.

With pleasing scenery, a deep sense of heritage and ... no hills, her *Canal Walks* are worth viewing.

Her trademark breezy presentation in this series of four walks is hard to resist and might even tempt the unguarded to leave the sofa and sample the wilds of Britain's canals.

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The towpaths of the North Wales Llangollen, Highlands Caledonian, Bath Kennet and Avon Canal all feature, along with our own Worcester and Birmingham Canal.

If you're tempted to know how Britain's canal network was built and how it affected our country during the Industrial Revolution before rail took over, then this DVD is fascinating.

Canal Walks is out on DVD now. John Nash



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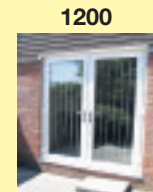


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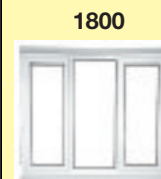
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Call to end a decade of floods at town park

Church supporting village



Laurie Budd, Paul Puttergill and Helen Leech of charity Operation South America

Walsall people are using their talents to help an overseas aid project. The Operation South America charity has been launched by an Aldridge group. They support projects in the village of Quyuqyo, Paraguay, by sending teams, mainly from Christian groups, churches and organisations, to help with community feeding programmes and education projects. Team member Helen Leech, aged 21, is due to go for two months to help with a playground building scheme. She has £800 of University of Worcester sponsorship to spend summer on the project. The charity was the brainchild of

members of Aldridge Parish Church who had links with a bishop previously based there. A food project has seen a burger bar set up which is operated by village youngsters with the help of the aid agency's workers there.

Foundations were laid for a training centre. Paul Puttergill, of the management committee, said Paraguayan builders and volunteers will be involved in that. He said other churches could get involved with a project financed via fundraising and sponsors. They can be called on 01922 448678, 01922 456182 or email op.southamerica@yahoo.co.uk

Blocked drains filled with litter, leaves and mud have been causing flooding problems at Willenhall Memorial Park for more than a decade.

Water up to four inches deep floods the area surrounding the bandstand every time it rains.

Fed-up councillors have said they had been campaigning for a decade for a solution to the problem, which sees dog walkers and children having to battle their way through sludge.

Council bosses have now launched an investigation into the persistent issue.

Councillor Carl Creaney, a member of the Friends of Willenhall Memorial Park group, said enough was enough.

"This problem has been going on for around 10 to 12 years," Councillor Creaney said. "I have been raising it over and over again but nothing ever seems to be done."

Debris

"The drains around the band stand are filled with rubbish and debris and every time there is heavy rainfall, they flood."

"The flood water is up to four inches deep and looks awful."

"It puts people off and they shouldn't have to walk through it."

"I think the park is in danger of losing its prestigious Green Flag

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

status if the problem doesn't get sorted."

Councillor Creaney said he now wanted to see the drains cleared out and the installation of a soakaway, which is a filtration device for dispersing surface and storm water.

"People have had enough of slushing through this water," Councillor Creaney added. "It's time something was done."

Walsall Council said the head of its Green Spaces department, Graham Hood, was now investigating the problem.

Walsall Council spokesman Lee Shrimpton said: "An investigation has been carried out, it was decided the drains in the area needed to be jetted."

"Most of the jetting work has been carried out, only one section remains and that is on the crews work programme over the coming days."

Silver for funk band

A Walsall College band won the silver medal in a national competition. Music students, Mica Barton, Rosanna Lefevre, Tom Southall, Calum Harrison, Charlie Stackhouse and Liam Bridgen created Funked Up. The band was selected to perform at the national final of the World Skills music contest.

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Taste tester – television's Oz Clarke on a visit to the Windsor Castle Pub and Brewery in 2009



Real ale at The Windsor Castle Pub and Brewery, Stourbridge Road, Lye



Windsor Castle's Chris Sadler, front, and Adrian Susman



At the launch of the new Angel Ale at the Wagon and Horses, Halesowen, Andy Kirk, cellarman Jim Bolton, landlord Bob Drummans and Nick Pritchard

Tiny brewers spark real-ale revolution

AS THE Midlands' thirst for locally-brewed real ales grows, so too does the list of micro-breweries set up by beer fans to supply their local pub.

The latest in this string of micro-breweries cropping up in the region has announced its arrival with the launch of its signature ale.

Halesowen-based Angel Ales took to the pumps with its flagship bitter at a celebration knees-up on June 6 at the Wagon & Horses in Stourbridge Road, Halesowen.

Owners Nick Pritchard and Andy Kirk have ploughed thousands of pounds into the venture, converting a former pattern manufacturer's shop next to Mr Kirk's home in Furlong Lane into a five-barrel brewery.

Engineering

They started trading in November, and – after eight 'test brews' – Angel Ale officially made the pumps after winning Best Beer at the Stourbridge Beer Festival.

"It was always our dream to set up a brewery together – we met when we worked for a civil engineering company in Birmingham in 1999 and have been talking about it ever since," said Mr Pritchard, aged 51, of Devon Road, Bearwood.

"We liked the pale beers that come from Oakham in Peterborough, and down from York-

shire, and thought something like that was needed in the Midlands."

Mr Kirk added: "I bought my house and the building next door, where the brewery is, in 2006. "It took a long time to refurbish. It was very industrial, and very dirty."

"But now it looks great – it's all spick and span and ready for action."

Mr Pritchard says Angel Ales hopes to produce its flavours by using organic malt, natural ingredients and no added synthetic sugars.

Wagon & Horses landlord Bob Drummans says it is "fantastic" to be able to stock ale brewed in the town.

"Ever since the first test brew, you could tell they had a bit of quality," says Mr Drummans, who is 60.

"I wish them all the best and I will certainly be stocking them into the future."

Mr Drummans, who has been at the pub for 23 years, says there has been a "significant" rise in



It's cheers all round as Black Country punters lift a glass to the latest locally-brewed real ale to hit the pub pumps. Charlotte Cross reports on the recent boom in micro-breweries



Landlord Dave Craddock of The Duke William the popularity of real ales in recent times.

"I have always specialised in real ale, but there's no doubt about it – it has become more fashionable and there are a lot of young people really seeking out new ales," he says.

"Having micro-breweries like this popping up in our own region is lovely."

Meanwhile, Chris Sadler, from Sadler's Ales, in Stourbridge Road, Lye, has reported a near-40 per cent increase in sales since 2008.

"There has been a big resurgence in the last two decades," he says.

"Real ale has become more fashionable, people are choosing to drink more local produce."

Mr Sadler started the brewery in 2004 with the help of his wife Aster, sister Emily, and father John.

The family's brew recently got the thumbs-up from supermarket giant Sainsbury's, which has agreed to sell the beers at stores nationwide.

From September 7, 20,000 bottles will go on sale for three weeks, alongside the other 15 winners, at Sainsbury's stores in the UK.

If it is one of the national winners, Sainsbury's will place an order for six months, creating two new jobs.

Mr Sadler, aged 28, says: "We're very excited. If we win the national competition, which would mean an order for 250,000 bottles, we would need to expand in the next 12 to 18 months."

Seven people are employed at Sadler's which also opened the neighbouring Windsor Castle taphouse pub in 2006.

Sadler's was originally founded in Oldbury in 1900 by Chris's great-grandfather, Thomas Sadler.

It ceased production in 1927 but was relaunched seven years ago.

The brewery was given the thumbs-up by wine

expert Oz Clarke and Top Gear presenter James May when they filmed a television programme there in 2009.

Black Country Ales, based in little more than a shed behind the Old Bulls Head, Lower Gornal, supplies beer for 28 pubs across the West Midlands.

That site was used from 1840 for about 150 years, until the business died out as trade fell.

Landlord Angus McMeeking took over the pub 12 years ago.

But he only discovered the micro-brewery in an outhouse three years later when he finally broke open a padlock which was keeping the door shut.

Bearded

Since then business has boomed and the company recently started selling beer to pub giant Wetherspoons.

"There is a real market for real ales now, you see young people enjoying it, sharing it with friends. It's not just for bearded old men any more."

Black Country landlord Dave Craddock recently launched Craddock's brewery the Duke William, in Coventry Street, in Stourbridge town centre following a £20,000 investment.

It is now in full production, with a capacity to churn out up to 288 pints a week. And its two launch brews are called First Born and Arthur Pint – both named after his newly-born son Arthur, now just three months old.

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Graduate to set up studio



A Walsall graduate is launching a film studio and production company in his home town next month after being pointed in the right direction by an actor from an ITV drama series.

Former Birmingham City University student James Gibbins, who graduated last year with a BA honours degree in fine art, will be the director of Slate IX Studios when it opens in Bath Street on July 4.

The 24-year-old, of Maxholm Road, Streetly, was introduced to contacts in the media industry by actor Jason Salkey, who played rifleman Harris in ITV's Sharpe series alongside Sean Bean. James befriended him on social

networking site Facebook after becoming a fan of the show.

He asked the actor for career advice which landed him a work experience role as a runner on the set of BBC drama Land Girls. Mr Gibbins said: "He got me in touch with the BBC in Birmingham. It gave me some good experience." His long-term plans are to make his own films and TV shows.

Mr Gibbins plans to go into business with Elliot Nicholas, 18, of Poplar Avenue, Brownhills, Mustafa Tamer, 24, of Birchfield Way, Walsall, Mike Dines, 18, of Pugh Crescent, Bentley, and Lee Whitehouse, 23, of Coronation Road, Wednesbury.

Real ale festival will be no small beer

Staff at a Walsall pub are getting ready to raise a glass to its beer and cider festival later this month.

The Rose and Crown pub, in Old Birchills, will host the festival between June 30 and July 3.

A total of 22 beers and three ciders from around the UK will be on offer, along with food and live entertainment on the Saturday night.

Gary Whitaker, who has been the landlord for just over a year, said: "There will be a huge range of beers from a number of breweries on offer and it will be free to get in. There will be 18 on at any one time."

"We've been preparing for this for about a month and a half. There will be food and barbecues if it's sunny."

"I absolutely can't wait. It will put the place back on the map."

Artist's work

Work by Leo Fitzmaurice will be on show at Walsall's New Art Gallery from June 17 until October 1. More than 3,000 flyers will be on display.



Landlord Gary Whitaker gets ready for the festival at The Rose & Crown

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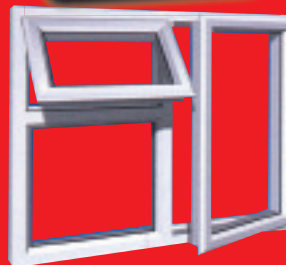
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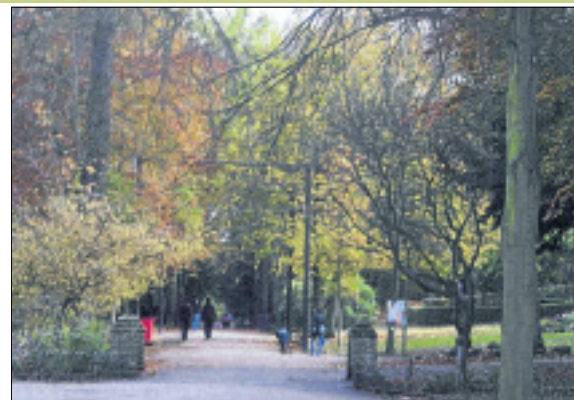


The reedbeds surrounding the canal which runs through Pelsall

This week's pictures come from Carole Small of Pelsall who has been out and about in her locality capturing the wildlife and natural settings which surround her.



Swans and ducks at Ryders Hayes



Walsall Arboretum showing its autumnal colours



The canal running past homes in Pelsall

Snapshots of life in the borough

Are you a snazzy snapper, a lord of the lens or diva of the digital print? Think you can do better than these pictures, if you can why not share your snaps of the borough?

There is no limit on the age or the subject all we ask is that they be as sharp and clear as possible and must be of reasonable quality for publication and of course feature some area or aspect of Walsall and its life.

Send them in with your name, address and contact number and a brief description of what the picture shows.

Also we would like to hear about any interesting tales or stories attached to the photograph. Send them in either as a hard copy or electronically and we will do the rest. So get those cameras snapping, dig out those dusty old albums and send them to: **Snapshots Claim to Frame, Walsall Chronicle, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES** or email them to walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk.



Some more of the wildlife at Ryders Hayes pool

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Hidden gem is a step back in time



Bethan Stanley in the showroom

TUCKED away in the heart of the Jewellery Quarter in Birmingham is one of the most complete surviving historic factories in the city.

Entering the building is like stepping back in time to an industrial world of hard work, skilled craftsmanship and entrepreneurial spirit.

The factory is packed with the machinery, tools, paperwork and the dust and grime of a silver works. This hidden gem of industrial history was bought from the Evans family by English Heritage in 2008 and has been lovingly brought back to life.

English Heritage spent £2 million on the project and now it is open for visitors to come and see what life was like working in a successful silver factory.

The factory was started up at 54 Albion Street in 1881 by Jenkin Evans. Mr Evans had originally started as an apprentice at silver works Levi and Salaman.

Such was Mr Evans' success he was soon able to buy out his partners and set up on his own. Over the years Jenkins extended the factory outwards and bought the neighbouring three houses.

Heritage

Despite his success you will rarely find a piece of silverware with the JW Evans mark upon it because he would sell his goods on to other manufacturers who would then silver plate them themselves.

The business was passed from Jenkin Evans to his son Austen Evans and his son Tony who sold it on to English Heritage.

Conservator Beth Stanley, who has been working on the project, said: "The fact is everything has been kept. Nothing has been thrown away so a century's worth of business history is just sitting here."

English Heritage are now organising tours of the Albion Street factory.

To book a tour call English Heritage Customer Services on 0870 333 1181.



The amazing array of cutting tools are seen on sagging shelves



English Heritage's project conservator Bethan Stanley is seen one of the tool rooms



Jenkin Evans and Elfrida Evans with their children



Some of the factory workers around 1905



A snapshot of time back in 1905 - workers gather outside the historic factory in Albion Street, Birmingham

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the pulse



TV listings start
- page 34

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GUIDE AND WEEK'S
TV VIEWING**



Theatre and show round-up - page 33



Reviews and gigs - page 38



Birmingham's Ruby Turner who will be appearing with Jools Holland's Big Band

Ruby's aiming to Turner focus on her reggae roots

BIRMINGHAM singer Ruby Turner is returning to her reggae roots for her new single *Leaves In The Wind* and is relishing a series of outdoor gigs as featured vocalist with Jools Holland's band.

Jamaica-born Ruby, who will be appearing with Jools and co at Ragley Hall near Alcester on July 2, says she was inspired to record reggae songs after narrating BBC4 TV's documentary *Reggae Britannia*.

"To me reggae was the music of love and some say it's lost its flavour but I love a challenge," says Ruby, who left Montego Bay for Handsworth at the age of nine in the late 1960s.

"This infectious style of music helped to bind communities and cultures. Regardless of race and colour, the many who embraced it made it their own. This was simply brilliant and a wonderful time, making me proud to be British. I listened to Gregory Isaacs, John

Holt, Dennis Brown, and the female singers like Marcia Griffiths, Janet Kay and Carrol Thompson. Bob Marley was the main man, who brought the music to a worldwide audience, but when he died reggae lost its champion."

She has happy memories of growing up in Handsworth, where her mother still lives. "It was great. Yes, it had its problems but the community spirit was so wonderful."

Actress

Gospel was also a musical influence for Ruby but remarkably, given her soulful voice, her original intention was to be on the stage as an actress rather than a singer.

"Apparently, when I was five, there I was in the corner of the stage at Montego Bay Town Hall, giving it large. I was pushed on stage and jiggled even more. I clearly wasn't shy." She thanks her headmistress at Handsworth Wood Girls School for Girls for setting her on the road to showbiz career.

"Mrs Hinchcliffe told me I should go to theatre school," Ruby remembers.

The young Ruby joined the Crescent Theatre, Birmingham and then the Old Vic, Bristol.

Her role in a rock opera brought demand as a session singer and led to her joining Boy George's Culture Club. A few years ago came the call to guest sing with the Jools Holland Rhythm and Blues Orchestra and Ruby, who now lives in Solihull, became a regular with Jools both on record and in concert, and a regular on his popular New Year's Eve Hootenanny Show.

She describes Jools as "a generous musician". She gets her own five-song set in his show and she is enjoying the open-air gigs where audiences tend to get up and dance. "You know what we say, enjoy yourself it's later than you think," she adds.

Ruby will be with him again for his annual Christmas show at Birmingham NIA on December 17.



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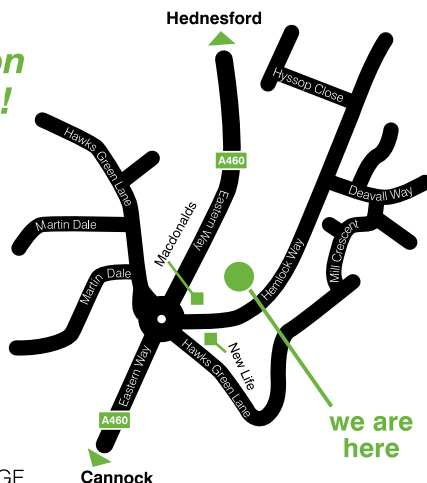
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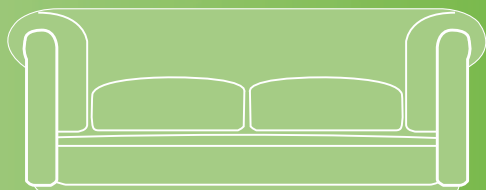
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Elisha Willis as Swanilda and David Morse as Dr Coppélius in the Birmingham Royal Ballet production.

Photo Bill Cooper

Ballet's quivers, turns and glittering poses

TWO shows by Birmingham Royal Ballet's Director, David Bintley, round off the Company's 2010/11 season at Birmingham Hippodrome next week.

Allegri Diversi was first performed by Birmingham Royal Ballet in 2004.

Full of quivering jumps and turns, dance phrases that freeze into glittering unpredictable poses, Allegri Diversi is a sparklingly energetic classical ballet to Rossini's light and playful score.

In Carmina Burana, an encounter with the mind-blowing goddess Fortuna deals three seminarians a major lesson in the fickle nature of fate.

Compelled to abandon their sacred studies to pursue a more sensual approach to life, forbidden pleasures and physical temptations quickly become the young men's most eager areas of revision.

Soon the young celebrants are soaring with passion.

Meanwhile, the BRB present Marius

Petipa's classic 19th century ballet Coppelia, about a toymaker who brings a mechanical doll to life. It's a family favourite.

Birmingham Rep's modern updating of The Wizard of Oz, The Wiz, features lots of Motown soul hits and a starring role for X Factor finalist Tamworth's Treyc Cohen, on at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre until Saturday.

Hot on the heels of two triumphant West End seasons, 1980s musical Footloose returns to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre for one week only from Monday, June 20, until Saturday, June 25.

Includes

Playing the dancing hero Ren, a role that launched the career of Hollywood actor Kevin Bacon, will be Adam C Booth.

The cast also includes Steven Pinder as the Reverend Shaw Moore. Steven is best known for playing Max Farnham in the long running soap Brookside, for which he won a Manchester Evening News Award for Best Actor.

The Bon Jovi Experience perform the music of the famous American rock band,

such as Livin' On A Prayer, at the Grand tonight (Thursday).

Children's favourite steam trains Thomas and Friends chuff chuff on to the stage at the Grand on Saturday and Sunday for morning and afternoon performances.

Comedy highlights include: Mancunian comic Jason Manford at Wolverhampton Civic Hall tomorrow (Friday) and Saturday.

The king of the one-liners Jimmy Carr is at Dudley Concert Hall on Wednesday, June 22. If you can't catch him there, he will be at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on July 2.

Michael Jackson tribute show Thriller continues at Hanley's Regent Theatre to Saturday.

At Stratford, David Greig's sequel to Macbeth, Dunsinane, joins the Royal Shakespeare Company repertoire which also includes Rupert Gould's Las Vegas-set The Merchant Of Venice featuring Patrick Stewart, Michael Boyd's Macbeth with Jonathan Slinger as the murderous monarch, 'lost' Shakespeare play Cardenio and 17th century comedy The City Madam.



Weapon of Peace are back together

Weapon is reloaded

WOLVERHAMPTON 1970s and 80s reggae band Weapon Of Peace have got back together with a reunion show being held at the Robin 2 in Bilston on Saturday, June 25.

The band were on the brink of the big time during the punk-reggae boom, sharing the stage with such acts as Dexy's Midnight Runners, Haircut 100, Duran Duran and Stiff Little Fingers, and were label mates with fellow West Midlands reggae band UB40 on Graduate Records. Their best years were 1980 and 81 with the release of the singles Children Of Today, If and Jah Love. They also played in front of a crowd of more than 50,000 at the Jobs For Youth rally in London.

Cracks

The pressure of relentless touring had taken its toll and cracks began to emerge within the band, which fell apart during the summer of 1983, leaving behind a small but rich musical legacy.

Weapon Of Peace have now reformed, featuring the main lyricists Mick De Souza and Clyde McKenzie, fellow original members Clive Brown and Colin Palmer, plus four new members. These include saxophonist Alan Davies, who has worked with artists as diverse as soul man Edwin Starr and violinist Nigel Kennedy, and guitarist Bonna Brock from Wolverhampton band Sub Zero.

Explaining their decision to reform, Clyde McKenzie said: "Back then we were young and I don't think any of us fully comprehended what we had achieved. We just loved playing our music. It has since become apparent to us that there was so much more that we had to offer. So it's like unfinished business".

Tickets cost £8 in advance, £10 on the door. Call 01902 401211.

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Choice



CASUALTY

(BBC1, 8.50pm).

This week, of course, it's no different, as Adam goes to great lengths to prove a point to his colleagues and Jeff and Dixie come to blows over a troubled teen. With Jordan on one of his efficiency drives, it doesn't go unnoticed to him how quickly Adam is processing his patients. Rather than be the pat on the back it was intended to be, though, Jordan's praise leaves Adam frustrated that he's losing focus on his patients. He gets a chance to prove Jordan wrong when an elderly man with terminal cancer is brought in and despite risking the wrath of Jordan and the oncologist, he ensures that the patient has a dignified death in his own home.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.35** Rachel Allen: Home Cooking. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. **12.45** A Question of Sport. (R) **1.15** British Olympic Dreams. Featuring swimmer Ian Thorpe. **1.45** Live Athletics. The European Team Championships. **5.10** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.35** Total Wipeout. (R)

6.35 **FILM: Kung Fu Panda.** (2008) Premiere. Animated comedy, with the voices of Jack Black and Dustin Hoffman.

8.00 **The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins.** Game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject. Last in the series.

8.50 **Casualty.** Part one of two. Adam worries he has become too detached from his patients.

9.40 **Lee Mack's All Star Cast.** New series. Entertainment show, with guest James Blunt.

10.20 **BBC News; Weather;** National Lottery Update.

10.40 **Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow.** With Sarah Millican, Simon Evans, Jimeoin and Imran Yusuf. (R)

11.25 **FILM: Enemy of the State.** (1998) Thriller, starring Will Smith and Gene Hackman; Weatherview.

1.35 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **12.00** Film: The Journey of Natty Gann. (1985) Disney adventure, starring John Cusack. **1.35** Escape to the Country. (R) **1.40** Royal Ascot. **4.45** Film: PT 109. (1963) Fact-based drama, starring Cliff Robertson.

7.00 **Flog It!** From Plymouth. (R)

7.30 **Dad's Army.** Wilson joins the aristocracy. (R)

8.00 **Kennedy Home Movies.** Private film footage and memoirs of nannies who looked after the Kennedy children offer an insight into life as a member of one of the 20th century's most powerful families.

9.00 **Have I Got a Bit More News for You.** Jack Dee guest hosts an extended version of the current affairs quiz, with panellists Caroline Wyatt and Jon Richardson joining Ian Hislop and Paul Merton. (R)

9.45 **The Kennedys: A Culture Show Special.** Jonathan Freedland is joined by Tony Badger, John Sergeant, Anne McElvoy and Sarah Bradford for a discussion on John F. Kennedy and his family.

10.45 **The Kennedys.** Drama, starring Greg Kinnear and Katie Holmes. (R)

11.25 **The Kennedys.** John F. Kennedy marries Jackie. (R)

12.10 Film: Evening. (2007) Premiere. Romantic drama, starring Vanessa Redgrave and Claire Danes. **2.00** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **8.25** House Gift. (R) **9.25** Coronation Street. **11.45** This Morning: Saturday. **12.40** Animals Do the Funniest Things. (R) **1.40** ITV News; Weather. **1.45** Film: On the Buses. (1971) Comedy, starring Reg Varney. **3.25** Film: A View to a Kill. (1985) James Bond adventure, starring Roger Moore. **5.50** Regional Programmes.

6.00 **ITV News; Weather.**

6.15 **You've Been Framed! A to Z.** Harry Hill presents an alphabetical rundown of viewers' camcorder calamities and amusing mobile phone footage. (R)

7.15 **Odd One In.** New series. Comedy game show, hosted by Bradley Walsh.

8.00 **Penn & Teller: Fool Us.** New series. The magicians challenge guest illusionists to outwit them with mind-boggling tricks, and offer successful performers a gig in Las Vegas.

9.00 **The Marriage Ref.** New series. Couples take humorous domestic disputes to celebrity panellists, who discuss the merits of each side before deciding which partner is in the right.

10.00 **ITV News; Weather.**

10.15 **FILM: Notting Hill.** (1999) Romantic comedy, starring Julia Roberts.

12.30 The Choir That Rocks. (R) **1.30** The Zone; ITV News; Headlines. **3.30** In Plain Sight. **4.15** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

Channel 4

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Film Show. (R) **7.05** FIM Superbike World Championship. (R) **7.30** MSA British Rallycross Championship. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** T4: Friends. (R) **9.25** T4: Hollyoaks Music Show. **9.55** T4: Glee. **10.55** T4: Bad Teacher: T4 Movie Special. **11.25** T4: Friends. (R) **12.00** T4: Style the Nation. **1.00** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.30** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.55** Channel 4 Racing. **3.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.30** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.00 **Come Dine with Me.** Toby Young hosts the final night in west London. (R)

6.30 **Channel 4 News.**

7.05 **4thought.tv.** Exploring the issue of placing elderly parents in care homes.

7.10 **FILM: Mean Girls.** (2004) Comedy, starring Lindsay Lohan and Rachel McAdams.

9.00 **Camelot.** As she prepares for her wedding to Leontes, Guinevere's home is ransacked by raiders and she seeks the king's protection. Drama, starring Tamsin Egerton.

10.05 **FILM: Braveheart.** (1995) Oscar-winning historical epic, directed by and starring Mel Gibson.

1.25 Film: Night Watch. (2004) Fantasy thriller, starring Konstantin Khabensky and Galina Tyunina. **3.20** Bob's Burgers. **4.10** Hill Street Blues. (R) **5.00** Wogan's Perfect Recall. (R) **5.25** Countdown. (R)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** The Gadget Show Shorts. (R) **10.05** How Do They Do It? (R) **10.40** Extreme Fishing with Robson Green - At the Ends of the Earth. (R) **11.40** Film: Objective, Burma! (1945) Second World War adventure, starring Errol Flynn. **2.25** Film: None But the Brave. (1965) Second World War adventure, starring Frank Sinatra. **4.30** Film: The Missing. (2003) Western, starring Kate Blanchett.

6.55 **5 News Weekend.** **7.00** Cricket. England v Sri Lanka. Mark Nicholas presents action from day three of the Third Test at the Rose Bowl in Hampshire, as the final match of the series continued.

8.00 **NCIS.** McGee kills an undercover police officer while on duty, and Jenny decides to approve an investigation into the death, placing a strain on her relationship with Gibbs. (R)

9.00 **CSI: NY.** A vengeful killer wages a cyber war on healthcare workers. (R)

10.00 **Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** Benson and Stabler investigate the rape of a girl.

10.55 **CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.** Part one of two. Stokes is kidnapped. (R)

11.55 **Inside Hollywood.**

12.10 **SCXTRA.** **12.40** SuperCasino. **4.00** Rough Guide to Bang for Your Buck. (R) **4.10** Great Scientists. (R) **4.35** HouseBusters. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

Digital

ITV2
6.55 Film: Dante's Peak (1997) Disaster movie, starring Pierce Brosnan. **9.00** Film: Deep Blue Sea (1999) Thriller, starring Saffron Burrows and Samuel L. Jackson. Including FYI Daily. **11.05** Film: Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels (1998) Comedy crime thriller, starring Nick Moran, Jason Statham, Jason Flemyng and Dexter Fletcher.

ITV3
2.40 A Touch of Frost **4.45** Agatha Christie's Poirot **7.00** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **11.00** Agatha Christie's Poirot

ITV4
2.50 Film: The Boys in Blue (1983) **4.45** Film: Follow a Star (1959) **6.55** The Sweeney **8.00** Minder: Arthur gets arrested after trying to buy a new car. **9.00** Film: Dirty Harry (1971) Thriller, starring Clint Eastwood and Andy Robinson. **11.10** Film: Magnum Force (1973) Action thriller sequel, starring Clint Eastwood and Hal Holbrook.

BBC THREE
7.00 Great TV Mistakes **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** Film: V for Vendetta (2005) Futuristic action thriller, with Natalie Portman. **11.05** Family Guy **11.50** American Dad!

BBC FOUR
7.00 The Art of Tommy Cooper **7.30** BBC Cardiff Singer of the World 2011 **9.00** Wallander **10.30** Botany: A Blooming History **11.30** Top of the Pops: 1976

E4
1.25 Hollyoaks **4.00** Made in Chelsea **5.00** Friends **6.00** Glee **7.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** How I Met Your Mother **9.00** Friends **10.00** Film: Employee of the Month (2006)

FILM4
2.50 Murder Ahoy (1964) **4.40** Anastasia (1956) **6.45** Cocoon (1985) Sci-fi drama, starring Wilford Brimley. **9.00** Taken (2008) **10.45** Jason X (2001)

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Choice



SCOTT & BAILEY

(ITV1, 9pm).

Britain's answer to Cagney and Lacey are back for another troublesome case, this one involving adult-film star Vicky Birkinshaw (Kierston Wareing). She reported her husband missing weeks ago, and is amazed when Syndicate 9 arrive at her front door to arrest her on the suspicion on his murder. Searching for clues, Rachel (Suzanne Jones) has to go through Vicky and Gary's homemade pornography collection, but when Vicky's daughter Eve (Alice Grice) turns up with her much older, boyfriend, things take a dark twist. Lesley Sharp also stars.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Country Tracks: Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.00 The Politics Show. 1.05 EastEnders. 3.00 Cash in the Celebrity Attic. (R) 3.45 Escape to the Country. (R) 4.45 Lifeline. 4.55 Songs of Praise. 5.30 Regional Programme.

6.00 Horrible Histories with Stephen Fry. New series. Highlights from the award-winning sketch show.

6.30 BBC News: Regional News: Weather.

7.00 Fake or Fortune? New series. Investigating works of art with mysterious origins.

8.00 Countryfile. Exploring the countryside of the North Downs and Surrey Hills. Matt Baker joins Chris Boardman to ride part of the 2012 Olympic cycling road race route at Box Hill.

9.00 Case Histories. Part one of two. Jackson is involved in a railway accident.

10.00 BBC News: Regional News: Weather.

10.25 Granada/YTV The Super League Show. Including highlights of St Helens v Wigan Warriors.

11.10 Andrew Marr's Megacities. Transport routes in heavily populated urban areas. Last in the series; (R) Weatherview.

12.15 Sign Zone: The Apprentice. (R) 1.15 Holly City. (R) 2.15 A History of Ancient Britain. (R) 3.15 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 10.00 Something for the Weekend. 11.30 Flog It! (R) 12.30 Film: Decision at Sundown. (1957) Western, with Randolph Scott, John Carroll and Andrew Duggan. 1.45 Live Athletics. The European Team Championships. 5.30 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World 2011. Petroc Trelawny presents the final of the competition. Last in the series.

8.00 125 Years of Wimbledon: You Cannot Be Serious. A history of the annual grass-court tennis tournament, which has become one of the world's most famous sporting events.

9.00 Coast. Nick Crane explores how Dutch engineers created massive coastal defences following the North Sea flood in 1953, which killed thousands of people in Britain and Holland.

10.00 Mock the Week. With Chris Addison, Ed Byrne, Micky Flanagan and Diane Morgan. (R)

10.30 The Shadow Line. Bede tries to complete his final drug deal as Julie's condition deteriorates, while Gabriel learns the truth about Counterpoint and agrees to meet Gatehouse. Last in the series. (R)

11.30 FILM: Disgrace. (2008) Premiere. Drama, with John Malkovich and Jessica Haines.

1.25 BBC News. 3.15 The Super League Show. 4.00 Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. 7.25 CITV. 8.25 May the Best House Win. (R) 9.25 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 10.25 60 Minute Makeover. (R) 11.30 This Morning: Sunday. 12.30 Dinner Date. (R) 1.25 ITV News: Weather. 1.35 Survival: Tales from the Wild. 2.30 Inspector Morse. (R) 4.35 Midsomer Murders. (R)

6.35 Regional Programmes. 6.45 ITV News: Weather. 7.00 The Royal. Dr Ormerod is arrested on suspicion of murder after a patient dies following a visit from him. Dr Ellis holds a clinic at the prison and becomes trapped when a riot breaks out.

8.00 Popstar to Operastar. The remaining six contestants try to master the art of the aria, hoping to secure viewers' votes and impress the judges. Hosted by Myleene Klass.

9.00 Scott & Bailey. A porn star is suspected of murdering her husband.

10.00 Popstar to Operastar: The Results. The two least popular contestants perform again.

10.30 ITV News: Weather. 10.45 FILM: Bonnie and Clyde. (1967) Fact-based gangster drama, starring Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway.

12.45 The Zone: Shopping and interactive gaming: ITV News Headlines. 2.00 Motorsport UK. 2.50 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 That Paralympic Show. (R) 7.00 The Grid. 7.25 Blenheim Triathlon. 7.55 T4: Style the Nation. 8.20 T4: The Crush. 8.50 T4: Hollyoaks. 11.20 T4: Friends. (R) 11.50 T4: Wretch 32's RockCorps: You Decide. 12.05 T4: Glee. (R) 1.05 T4: The Simpsons. (R) 1.35 T4: The Simpsons. (R) 2.00 Four in a Bed. (R) 2.35 Four in a Bed. (R) 3.05 Four in a Bed. (R) 3.35 Four in a Bed. (R) 4.05 Four in a Bed. (R) 4.35 Help! My House Is Falling Down. (R) 5.35 Deal or No Deal.

6.30 Channel 4 News. 6.55 4thought.tv. 7.00 Four Rooms. The dealers bid for a 7ft-long Victorian stuffed turtle, erotic photographs, hats designed by Vivienne Westwood, and a suit worn by Sean Connery during his tenure as James Bond. (R)

8.00 FILM: The Day the Earth Stood Still. (2008) Premiere. A scientist tries to persuade an alien visitor to Earth that the human race should be allowed to survive. Sci-fi remake, starring Keanu Reeves and Jennifer Connelly.

10.00 FILM: Hitman. (2007) Action thriller, starring Timothy Olyphant.

11.45 Stand Up for the Week. Satirical comedy show, hosted by Patrick Kielty. (R)

12.35 Father Ray Comes Out. (R) 1.00 Dance for Eternity. (R) 1.15 The Private Lives of Pompeii. (R) 2.35 Secret History: The Spanish Armada. (R) 3.35 Ancient Egyptians. (R) 4.30 Men of Iron. (R) 5.25 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. 6.05 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 6.15 Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) 6.25 Fireman Sam. (R) 6.40 Miss Spider's Sunny Patch Friends. (R) 6.50 Elmo's World. (R) 7.05 Chiro. (R) 7.15 Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) 7.30 Noddy in Toyland. (R) 7.40 Hana's Helpline. (R) 8.00 Little Princess. (R) 8.20 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) 8.35 Miss: Sheepdog Tales. (R) 8.45 Rupert Bear. (R) 9.00 Olivia. (R) 9.15 The Mr Men Show. (R) 9.30 The Milkshake! Show. (R) 10.00 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 10.20 Police Interceptors. (R) 11.20 The Restaurant Inspector. (R) 12.20 Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers. (R) 1.20 Film: Ten Wanted Men. (1955) Western, starring Randolph Scott. 2.55 Film: Operation Crossbow. (1965) Second World War adventure, starring George Peppard. 5.10 Film: Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol. (1987) Comedy sequel, starring Steve Guttenberg.

6.55 5 News Weekend. 7.00 Cricket. England v Sri Lanka.

8.00 FILM: Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves. (1991) Action adventure, starring Kevin Costner and Alan Rickman.

10.50 FILM: Secret Window. (2004) Psychological thriller, starring Johnny Depp, John Turturro and Maria Bello.

12.40 Forensic Files. (R) 1.10 SuperCasino. 4.00 Meals in Moments. (R) 4.10 Great Artists. (R) 4.35 Nick's Quest. (R) 5.00 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.10 The Milkshake! Show. (R) 5.35 Thomas & Friends. (R) 5.45 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

Digital

ITV2 5.20 Film: King Kong (2005) Fantasy adventure remake, starring Naomi Watts. 9.00 Peter Andre: The Next Chapter 10.00 Paul O'Grady: Lady Gaga Special 11.05 Film: The Interpreter (2004) Political thriller, starring Nicole Kidman and Sean Penn.

ITV3 2.20 Jane Austen's Emma 4.30 Film: Tea with Mussolini (1999) 6.50 Mr Bean 7.55 Agatha Christie's Poirot 9.00 Film: Air America (1990) Vietnam War comedy adventure, with Mel Gibson and Robert Downey Jr. 11.20 Film: The Accidental Tourist (1988) Romantic comedy drama, starring William Hurt.

ITV4 11.30 British Touring Car Championship. Round five from Croft. 6.00 World's Wildest Police Videos 6.45 Film: Every Which Way But Loose (1978) 9.00 Film: Magnum Force (1973) 11.30 Film: The Enforcer (1976)

BBC THREE 7.00 The World's Strictest Parents 8.00 Don't Tell the Bride 9.00 Little Britain 9.30 World's Craziest Foods 10.00 Family Guy 10.45 American Dad! 11.30 Our War

BBC FOUR 7.00 Hammond Meets Moss 8.00 The Car Show 9.00 A History of Horror with Mark Gatiss 10.00 Film: Day of the Dead (1985) 11.35 Festivals Britannia

E4 3.00 Jo Frost: Extreme Parental Guidance 4.00 Film: See Spot Run (2001) 6.00 Friends 7.00 Smallville 8.00 Friends 9.00 Desperate Housewives 11.00 Being Erica 11.55 The Big Bang Theory

FILM4 2.55 Tales from Earthsea (2006) 5.10 To Catch a Thief (1955) 7.15 X-Men: First Class Special 7.20 Buffy the Vampire Slayer (1992) 9.00 District 13 (2004) 10.40 Final Destination 3 (2006)

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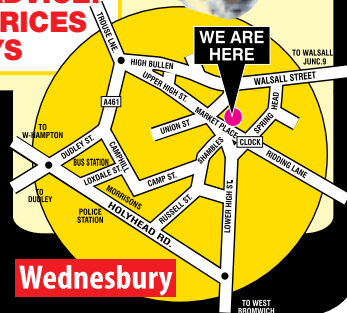
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Wednesbury

Monday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Crimewatch Roadshow. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Real Rescues. 11.45 Cash in the Attic. (R) BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Wimbledon 2011. Live coverage of day one of the third Grand Slam event of the year. 6.00 BBC News. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Saints and Scoundrels. BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 EastEnders. 8.30 Land of the Bandits: Panorama. 9.00 Case Histories. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 A Question of Sport. 11.05 In with the Flynns. (R) 11.35 The Graham Norton Show. (R) Weatherview. 12.25 Sign Zone: Wonders of the Universe. (R) 1.25 Luther. (R) 2.25 Inside the Human Body. (R) 3.25 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 10.30 Wimbledon Review 2010. 11.30 Daily Politics. 12.00 Wimbledon 2011. The opening day's play at the All England Championships. 3.25 CBBC. 5.50 Wimbledon 2011. Further coverage of the opening day of the championships. 8.00 Today at Wimbledon. 9.00 Made in Britain. 10.00 James May's Things You Need to Know. 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 The Tudors. (R) 12.15 The Tudors. (R) 1.10 BBC News. 3.25 Close.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 60 Minute Makeover. (R) 3.00 Secret Dealers. 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 Dinner Date. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 The Dales. 8.30 Coronation Street. 8.40 Four of a Kind. 10.00 ITV News at Ten. Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Film: Lethal Weapon 3. (1992) Action thriller sequel, with Mel Gibson and Danny Glover. 12.45 The Zone. (R) 1.00 ITV News Headlines. 2.50 Nightwatch with Steve Scott. (R) 3.40 ITV Nightscreen. 4.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.10 Sali Mail. (R) 6.15 The Hoobs. (R) 7.05 Freshly Squeezed. 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.00 Frasier. (R) 8.30 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Friends. (R) 9.30 Back to You. (R) 9.55 Location, Location, Location. (R) 10.55 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Superscrimmers: Waste Not Want Not. (R) 12.35 River Cottage Bites. 12.50 Film: The Drum. (1938) Period adventure, starring Sabu. 2.40 Baking Mad with Eric Leland. 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Four in a Bed. 5.30 Come Dine with Me. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 thought.tv. 8.00 Conservation's Dirty Secrets. Dispatches. 9.00 Embarrassing Fat Bodies. 10.00 Film: She's the Man. (2006) Romantic comedy, starring Amanda Bynes and Channing Tatum. 12.05 Music on 4: 5:10 Glynis: Live at Wembley. 12.35 Poker. 1.35 24 Hours in A&E. (R) 2.30 Embarrassing Bodies: Live from the Clinic. (R) 3.25 Bob's Burgers. 3.50 Hill Street Blues. (R) 4.35 Machines Time Forgot. (R) 5.30 Wogan's Perfect Recall. (R) 5.55 Sali Mail. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.05 Extreme Fishing with Robson Green - At the Ends of the Earth. (R) 12.05 Meals in Moments. (R) 12.15 5 News Lunchtime. 12.20 Law & Order. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 The Vanessa Show. 3.05 Film: Home Fires Burning. (1989) Second World War drama, starring Bernard Hughes. 5.00 5 News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 OK! TV. 6.55 5 News at 7. 7.00 Cricket; 5 News Update. 8.00 Police Interceptors; 5 News at 9.00 The Restaurant Inspector. A Northampton eatery with waitressing problems. 10.00 Film: Lakeview Terrace. (2008) Premiere. Thriller, starring Samuel L. Jackson. 12.15 UFC 81: Main Event. 1.15 SuperCasino. 4.00 Meals in Moments. (R) 4.10 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) 4.55 Rough Guide to Weekend Breaks. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

Tuesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Crimewatch Roadshow. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Real Rescues. 11.45 Cash in the Attic. (R) BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Wimbledon 2011. Day two of the All England Championships. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Holby City. 9.00 Luther. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather; National Lottery Update. 10.35 Abused: Breaking the Silence. 11.25 The Scheme; Weatherview. 12.20 Sign Zone: The Animal's Guide to Britain. (R) 1.20 The Country House Revealed. (R) 2.20 Fake Britain. (R) 3.05 Great British Railway Journeys. (R) 3.35 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 10.30 Yesterday at Wimbledon. (R) 11.30 Daily Politics. 12.00 Wimbledon 2011. Live coverage of the second day's play at the All England Club. 3.25 CBBC. 5.50 Wimbledon 2011. Further live coverage from the All England Club. 8.00 Today at Wimbledon. Highlights of the second day's play in the All England Championships. 9.00 Three Men Go to Venice. (R) 9.05 Regional News. 10.00 Lead Balloon. Rick hosts a stand-up comedy workshop. 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 Coast. (R) 12.20 The Tudors. (R) 1.15 BBC News. 3.35 Close.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 60 Minute Makeover. (R) 3.00 Secret Dealers. 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 Dinner Date. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Animal Kingdom. 8.00 Countrywise. 9.00 Baby Hospital. 9.55 Rory McGrath. Dara O Briain and Griff Rhys Jones travel to the Italian city. 10.00 Lead Balloon. Rick hosts a stand-up comedy workshop. 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 Coast. (R) 12.20 The Tudors. (R) 1.15 BBC News. 3.35 Close.

Channel 4 6.00 The Treacle People. (R) 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Frasier. (R) 8.25 Frasier. (R) 8.55 Friends. (R) 9.25 Back to You. (R) 9.55 Location, Location, Location. (R) 10.55 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Superscrimmers: Waste Not Want Not. (R) 12.35 River Cottage Bites. (R) 12.45 River Cottage Bites. (R) 12.55 Film: The Four Feathers. (1939) Period adventure, starring John Clements. 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Four in a Bed. 5.30 Come Dine with Me. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 thought.tv. 8.00 Four Rooms. 9.00 The Fairy Jobmother. 10.00 Jamie's Food Revolution Hits Hollywood. 11.05 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) 12.05 European Poker Tour. 1.10 Film: Superbike World Championship. 1.35 MSA British Rallycross Championship. (R) 2.05 The Grid. (R) 2.30 KOTV Boxing Weekly. 2.55 Blenheim Trathlon. (R) 3.25 Catching the Impossible. (R) 4.15 Demolition Day. (R) 5.10 Man on Earth. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.05 Extreme Fishing with Robson Green - At the Ends of the Earth. (R) 12.05 Meals in Moments. (R) 12.15 5 News Lunchtime. 12.20 Law & Order. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 The Vanessa Show. 3.05 Film: Storm Chasers: Revenge of the Twister. (1998) Thriller, starring Kelly McGillis. 5.00 5 News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. Charlie resolves to make her relationship with Brax pay. (R) 6.25 OK! TV. 7.00 5 News at 7. 7.30 How Do They Do It? (R) 8.00 5 News at 8. 8.15 5 News at 9.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 11.25 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 12.25 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 1.15 SuperCasino. 4.00 Meals in Moments. (R) 4.10 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) 4.55 Rough Guide to Islands. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

Wednesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Crimewatch Roadshow. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Real Rescues. 11.45 Cash in the Attic. (R) BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Wimbledon 2011. Live coverage of the opening matches on day three. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Wimbledon 2011. Live coverage of the third day's proceedings. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Waterloo Road; BBC News; Regional News. 8.30 In with the Flynns. 9.00 The Apprentice. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The National Lottery Wednesday Night Draws. 10.45 Not Going Out. (R) 11.15 Film: Extreme Measures. (1996) Thriller, starring Hugh Grant; National Lottery Update; Weatherview. 11.30 Sign Zone: See Hear. (R) 1.40 Country Tracks. (R) 2.35 Saints and Scoundrels. 3.05 Great British Railway Journeys. (R) 3.35 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 10.30 Yesterday at Wimbledon. (R) 11.30 Daily Politics. 12.00 Wimbledon 2011. Live coverage of the third day's play. 3.25 CBBC. 5.50 Wimbledon 2011. The third day's play continues at the All England Club. 8.00 Today at Wimbledon. Reflections on the third day's play at the All England Championships. 9.00 Afghanistan: War without End? John Ware examines the last decade of conflict. 10.00 The Apprentice. (R) 10.30 Newsnight. 11.20 Three Men Go to Venice. (R) 12.20 The Tudors. (R) 1.15 BBC News. 3.35 Close.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 60 Minute Makeover. (R) 3.00 Secret Dealers. 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 Dinner Date. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Poms in Paradise. 8.00 Lewis. (R) 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The Kids Are Alright. 11.35 Baby Hospital. (R) 12.30 The Zone. (R) 1.00 ITV News Headlines. 2.30 Film: True Crime. (1999) Crime thriller, starring Clint Eastwood. 4.40 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Frasier. (R) 8.25 Frasier. (R) 8.55 Friends. (R) 9.25 Back to You. (R) 9.50 Location, Location, Location. (R) 10.55 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Kirstie's Homemade Home. (R) 1.05 Film: The Thief of Bagdad. (1940) Fantasy adventure, starring Sabu. 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Four in a Bed. 5.30 Come Dine with Me. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 thought.tv. 8.00 Embarrassing Bodies: Live from the Clinic. 9.00 24 Hours in A&E. 10.00 Desperate Housewives. 11.05 East of Eden. 11.50 Music on 4: 5:10 Glynis: Live from Abbey Road. 12.40 Music on 4: The Album Chart Show. Spotlight. 12.55 Music on 4: 4Play: Foster the People. 1.10 Music on 4: 4Music Favourites: Avril Lavigne. (R) 1.35 Film: My Blue Heaven. (2001) Drama, starring Lelee Sobieski. 3.30 Conservation's Dirty Secrets: Dispatches. (R) 4.25 Hill Street Blues. (R) 5.20 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.05 Extreme Fishing with Robson Green - At the Ends of the Earth. (R) 12.05 Meals in Moments. (R) 12.15 5 News Lunchtime. 12.20 Law & Order. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 The Vanessa Show. 3.05 Inside Hollywood. (R) 3.15 Film: The Hit. (2000) Action thriller, starring Brooke Burns. 5.00 5 News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 OK! TV. 7.00 5 News at 7. 7.30 Fifth Gear. 8.00 Walking the Amazon. 10.00 Film: Timecop. (1994) Sci-fi adventure, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme. 11.55 Inside Hollywood. 12.05 SCXTRA. 12.35 SuperCasino. 4.00 Meals in Moments. (R) 4.10 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) 4.55 Rough Guide to Activity Holidays. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

Thursday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Crimewatch Roadshow. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Real Rescues. 11.45 Cash in the Attic. (R) BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Wimbledon 2011. Live coverage of the latest second-round matches. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Planet of the Apes; Battle for Earth. 9.00 Traffic Cops. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The National Lottery. 11.35 Sign Zone: Land of the Bandits: Panorama. (R) 12.55 Countryville. (R) 1.55 Britain's Next Big Thing. (R) 2.55 Fake Britain. (R) 3.40 Antiques Roadshow. (R) 4.25 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 6.55 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 10.30 Wimbledon 2011. Day four gets under way at the All England Club. 3.25 CBBC. 5.50 Wimbledon 2011. Further live coverage of the fourth day's play. 8.00 Today at Wimbledon. A round-up of the fourth day's play. 9.00 History Cold Case. New series. Investigating the remains of 17 people discovered in Norwich. 10.00 Mock the Week. With Chris Addison, Stewart Francis and Ava Vidal. 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 Afghanistan: War without End? (R) 12.20 The Tudors. (R) 1.15 BBC News. 4.25 Close.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 60 Minute Makeover. (R) 3.00 Secret Dealers. 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 Dinner Date. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 No More Heroes Anymore? Tonight. 8.00 Emmerdale. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 The Choir That Rocks. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Piers Morgan's Live Stories: Simon Cowell. (R) 11.45 Odd One In. 12.30 The Zone. (R) 1.00 ITV News Headlines. 2.30 British Touring Car Championship. 3.45 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.05 Sali Mail. (R) 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Frasier. (R) 8.25 Frasier. (R) 8.55 Friends. (R) 9.25 Back to You. (R) 9.55 Location, Location, Location. (R) 10.55 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Kirstie's Homemade Home. (R) 1.05 Film: Jungle Book. (1942) Adventure, starring Sabu. 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Four in a Bed. 5.30 Come Dine with Me. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 thought.tv. 8.00 Help! My House is Falling Down. 9.00 Born to Be Different. 10.00 The Sex Researchers. 11.05 King of 11.50 The Film Show. 12.25 Style the Nation. (R) 12.55 Music on 4: The Album Chart Show Introduces - Parade. 1.10 Music on 4: 4Play; Cassidy. (R) 1.20 The Model Agency. (R) 2.15 Film: The September Issue. (2009) Documentary profile of American Vogue editor Anna Wintour. 3.50 I Hate That Smile. (R) 3.55 Hill Street Blues. (R) 4.50 Wogan's Perfect Recall. (R) 5.15 Countdown.

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.05 Extreme Fishing with Robson Green - At the Ends of the Earth. (R) 12.05 Meals in Moments. (R) 12.15 5 News Lunchtime. 12.20 Law & Order. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 The Vanessa Show. 3.05 Inside Hollywood. (R) 3.15 Film: The Hit. (2000) Action thriller, starring Brooke Burns. 5.00 5 News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 OK! TV. 7.00 5 News at 7. 7.30 Fifth Gear. 8.00 Walking the Amazon. 10.00 Film: Timecop. (1994) Sci-fi adventure, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme. 11.55 Inside Hollywood. 12.05 SCXTRA. 12.35 SuperCasino. 4.00 Meals in Moments. (R) 4.10 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) 4.55 Rough Guide to Activity Holidays. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

Friday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Crimewatch Roadshow. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Real Rescues. 11.45 Cash in the Attic. (R) BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Wimbledon 2011. Live coverage of the fifth day's play on the show courts. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 EastEnders. 8.30 A Question of Sport. (R) 9.00 My Family. 9.30 Miranda. (R) 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The Graham Norton Show. 11.20 The National Lottery Friday Night Draws. 11.30 Film: The Terminator. (1984) Sci-fi thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. 1.10 The One Show. (R) Weatherview. 2.15 Sign Zone: The Animal's Guide to Britain. (R) 3.15 Two Greedy Italians. (R) 4.15 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 6.55 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 10.30 Yesterday at Wimbledon. (R) 11.30 Daily Politics. 12.00 Wimbledon 2011. Live coverage from the grass courts of the All England Club. 3.25 CBBC. 5.50 Wimbledon 2011. Live coverage through to the close of play on day five. 8.00 Today at Wimbledon. 9.00 The Kennedys. 9.45 Glastonbury 2011. 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.05 Glastonbury 2011. 2.00 Close.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 60 Minute Makeover. (R) 3.00 Secret Dealers. 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 Dinner Date. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 Love Your Garden. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Paul O'Grady Live. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Film: No Reservations. (2007) Romantic comedy, with Catherine Zeta-Jones and Aaron Eckhart. 12.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.35 Film: The Whole Ten Yards. (2004) Comedy sequel, starring Matthew Perry. 4.10 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.00 The Treacle People. (R) 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Frasier. (R) 8.25 Frasier. (R) 8.55 Friends. (R) 9.25 Back to You. (R) 9.55 Location, Location, Location. (R) 10.55 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Kirstie's Homemade Home. (R) 1.05 My Eden. (R) 1.10 Film: One of Our Airmen Is Missing. (1942) Second World War drama, starring Godfrey Tearle. 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Four in a Bed. 5.30 Come Dine with Me. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 thought.tv. 8.00 Jamie's 30 Minute Meals. (R) 8.00 Come Dine with Me. 9.00 8 Out of 10 Cats. 9.30 King of 10.00 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. 11.05 That Peter Kay Thing. (R) 11.40 PhoneShop. 12.10 Music on 4: Mercury Prize Sessions. 12.30 Music on 4: The Album Chart Show Introduces - Far East Movement. 12.45 Music on 4: 4Play; Wolf Gang. 1.00 Music on 4: Hollyoaks Music Show. (R) 1.25 My Name Is Earl. (R) 2.15 The Real Housewives of New Jersey. (R) 3.05 Ugly Betty. (R) 4.35 Hill Street Blues. (R) 5.25 Countdown. (R) 5.55 Sali Mail. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.05 Extreme Fishing with Robson Green. (R) 12.05 Meals in Moments. (R) 12.15 5 News Lunchtime. 12.20 Law & Order. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 The Vanessa Show. 3.05 Inside Hollywood. (R) 3.15 Film: The Hit. (2000) Action thriller, starring Brooke Burns. 5.00 5 News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 OK! TV. 7.00 5 News at 7. 7.30 Fifth Gear. 8.00 Walking the Amazon. 10.00 Film: Timecop. (1994) Sci-fi adventure, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme. 11.55 Inside Hollywood. 12.05 SCXTRA. 12.35 SuperCasino. 4.00 Meals in Moments. (R) 4.10 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) 4.55 Rough Guide to Activity Holidays. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

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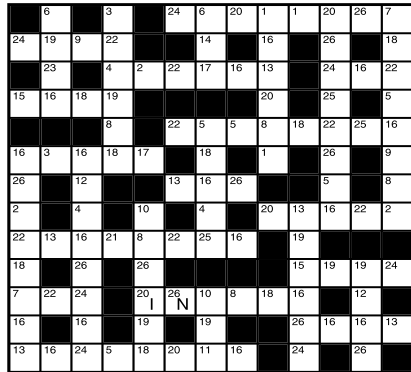
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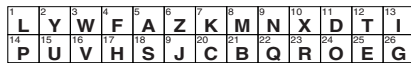
No.121

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



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CODEWORD SUDOKU
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WORD SEARCH
NUMBER CRUNCH

SEARCH: DAILY EXPRESS PUZZLES On the iPhone, iPod Touch & iPad

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SEARCH: DAILY EXPRESS PUZZLES

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. If you want to make it, you will! (9)
8. Fabulous bird in a frock! (3)
9. Was unenterprising, having a house on the pavement (6,5)
11. Collects in the rags, perhaps (7)
12. Buy one a drink for medicinal purposes? (5)
13. Flag-officer? (6)
15. Staff provided to help the disabled (6)
17. Sailor returned to show an old card game (5)
18. Took the meeting and was carried off triumphantly (7)
20. A case perhaps for harmless pursuits (11)
22. A wood in Lancashire (3)
23. He is known in society for caring for money (9)

Down

2. Time for some other adventures (3)
3. Put oil on fish, we hear (5)
4. This son normally succeeds (6)
5. A tortuous swindler (7)
6. Order a gift to members (7,4)
7. Made one's mark as a non-runner? (9)
10. He's after a feline with a strip of leather - calamity! (11)
11. Barge rate turned out to be astronomical! (5,4)
14. Attempt to pocket a ball, but lose one's nerve? (2,2,3)
16. A shipping company, we hear, to make a profit (6)
19. Fly from a ship (5)
21. The rate that has been deducted before (3)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Inestimable (9)
8. Possess (3)
9. Excitement (11)
11. Bishopric (7)
12. Exult (5)
13. Iterate (6)
15. Lower (6)
17. Mark of omission (5)
18. Foretell (7)
20. Doubtfulness (11)
22. Front (3)
23. Efforts (9)

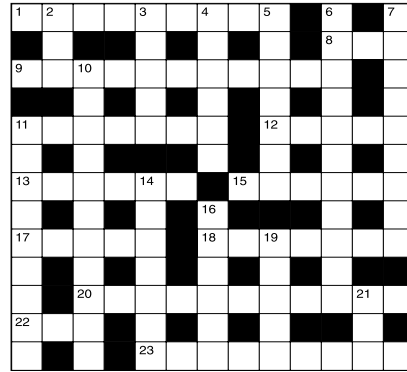
Down

2. Decay (3)
3. Draw out (5)
4. Exultant (6)
5. Gravel (7)
6. Comfort (11)
7. Pleasure (9)
10. Untimely (11)
11. Instruction (9)
14. Object (7)
16. Scanty (6)
19. Precise (5)
21. Tawny (3)



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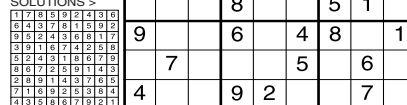
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Exodus; 8 Bureau; 10 Learner; 11 Belle; 12 Rock; 13 Catch; 17 Breed; 18 Prop; 22 Knave; 23 Trainer; 24 Models; 25 Robust. Down: 1 Declare; 2 Romance; 3 Burns; 4 Put back; 5 Realm; 6 Rules; 9 Ornaments; 14 Ordeals; 15 Bran tub; 16 Spirits; 19 Skimp; 20 Handy; 21 Major. QUICK - Across: 7 Stocks; 8 Callers; 10 Regular; 11 Terse; 12 Cove; 13 Vital; 17 Stater; 18 Slyer; 22 Brine; 23 Curtail; 24 Switch; 25 Slogan. Down: 1 Ostrich; 2 Forgive; 3 Skill; 4 Partial; 5 Alert; 6 Green; 9 Armistice; 14 Stretch; 15 Strange; 16 Telling; 19 Abuse; 20 Rigid; 21 Droll.

Sudoku

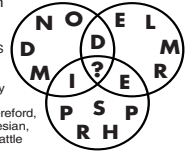
Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >



Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:
The letter represented by the question mark is R. Hereford, Longhorn, Friesian, all breeds of cattle

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FENSA



Dale earns his date in BGT's Jean just can't wait for the tour to begin



Dale Phillips, aged 18, front, who will be playing Bugsy, with Kirsty Deakin, 12, Jamie Tilley, 14, and Joseph Maslin, 14, who are also appearing in the show

A MUSIC and drama student from a Black Country high school is set to take the title role in a Birmingham theatre production of Bugsy Malone.

Dale Phillips from West Bromwich beat 260 youngsters to the lead role in the show, being produced as part of the New Alexandra Theatre's annual Stage Experience production.

The 18-year-old, of Victoria Street, is one of four pupils from George Salter Academy to be offered parts in the show.

He said: "It was a very hard audition process, it went down to the wire with two of us finally going for the same part, but I gave it my best and it paid off."

The annual stage experience programme is an intensive two week project that gives young people across the West Midlands the chance to train and perform in a professional theatre. Other George Salter pupils set to take part in the show are Joe Maslin, Jamie Tilley and Kirsty Deakin. Bugsy Malone will run from August 25 to 27.



Organist Jean Martyn

JEAN Martyn's life has become a non-stop whirlwind of media interviews, hotels and practice since she booked her place in the Britain's Got Talent final - and she is loving every minute of it.

The 59-year old organist from Brewwood is currently spending several hours a day honing her skills ahead of the TV talent show's national tour, which kicks off in Newcastle tonight.

Wolverhampton's MJ Mytton-Sanneh, aged 13, who finished third in the competition with boyband New Bounce, has also been rehearsing in London ahead of the start of the 14-day marathon.

RACHEL BUTTON GLEE CLUB/STUDIO, B-HAM

IT WASN'T the best of starts for a concert on home turf with Rachel Button and her band walking on unannounced and then standing there looking a little non-plussed as the interval music continued to play.

No one seemed sure what to do or even have the sense to call someone else, meanwhile the band's singer sat down among the audience without a word of explanation or apology.

This aside, Oldbury lass Rachel does have a fantastic voice with a vocal range which one suspects has yet to be tested to its limit and is unlikely to be found wanting.



New Bounce star MJ

Jean, who came 10th in the contest, said: "I had a quick turn around after the final where I dashed home for about four hours for a change of clothes, but then it was straight back down to London to start rehearsals."

Systems

"I was on This Morning on Thursday as well and I have been doing radio interviews every day since I made the final. I had been on Day-break before the final so it has been all systems go."

"But it has also been the most wonderful experience I've had in my life. We are all working together, all the Britain's Got Talent finalists. We are all getting along and it's fantastic."

Reviews

The elfin-like Button, as you would expect from a new artist, has a limited repertoire but what she does sing she does extremely well.

She has a clear, sweet and distinctive voice which could well take her far and you can't help but compare her sound with some of the major songstress for instance when she sang Chalk and Cheese there were definite overtones of Bjork which gave it an almost mystical quality.

Then there was the playful sound of Coach E which could easily have been one from Katie Melua.

She also has the quality of the great Joni Mitchell which came out on The Lost Daughter and on With Love you got a hint of a more soulful

tastic. "We are all in the same hotel and I don't have to worry about being on my own because we are doing something all the time so you don't have time to think about that."

The Lichfield-born performer added that she was particularly looking forward to playing Birmingham's National Indoor Arena on June 25 and London's Wembley Arena on the eve of her 60th birthday, June 19.

"A lot of my friends have already bought their tickets for the Birmingham show," she said. "I will also be playing Wembley Arena the night before my birthday and it's not everyone who can say that."

side to her talents. There are no two ways about it Rachel has a clear, precise voice and everything she sings from Worst Enemy to Love Letters reflects a definite ease.

The band appeared to be caught unawares when the friendly crowd called for an encore and obviously hadn't planned for one so went back to one of the first songs With Love.

Rachel needs to decide which camp she is going to settle in be it rock, pop, folk or country but whichever she chooses there's every chance we are going to hear more of this local lady.

Danny Farragher

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Various departure dates



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Pickering 1940's Weekend

Two days departing October 14



PRICE FROM **£85**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visits to Scarborough and Pickering
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Strawberry Fields and Penny Lane

Two days departing Aug 13 and Oct 8



PRICE FROM **£89.95**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Two visits to Liverpool
- Fully guided Beatles Coach Tour of Liverpool
- A journey on the legendary "Ferry 'Cross the Mersey'"
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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Jersey

Four to eight days
Various departure dates



PRICE FROM **£245**

- Return flights
- Bed and breakfast accommodation
- Check-in and airline booking fees
- Half-board option
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Modern Travel Centre (ABTA V3101, ATOL 0752)

Lindisfarne and The Alnwick Garden

Three days departing September 9



PRICE FROM **£159**

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Visits to Durham, Bamburgh and Lindisfarne
- Entrance to The Alnwick Garden
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Rugby League Challenge Cup Final

Two days departing August 27



PRICE FROM **£129.95**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- A match ticket for the Rugby League Challenge Cup Final (face value £21, upgrades offered)
- Coach transfer from Wembley Stadium to the hotel
- Free time in London
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

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Eight days
Departures during October 2011



PRICE FROM **£799**

- Return flights
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- Full-day tour through the Mountains of New Hampshire
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The top property guide for Walsall, Brownhills, Aldridge, Willenhall and Bloxwich

Extended home is available, £159,950

Situated in a delightful cul de sac position within the popular Sneyd Park development in New Invention, Willenhall, this enlarged three bedroom semi-detached residence offers pleasantly appointed accommodation.

Number 9 Cranleigh Close, on the market for £159,950, enjoys the benefit of a two story side extension and an additional ground floor rear kitchen extension.

The spacious property which must be viewed internally, to be fully appreciated, includes gas radiator central heating and uPVC double glazed windows.

The accommodation comprises reception hall, lounge with feature wall-mounted gas fire, stairs to first floor, windows to the side and front, plus a part glazed door leading to the large extended dining kitchen.

The kitchen area is well-equipped with a range of matching fitted units and roll-top worksurfaces, including inset one-and-a-half bowl stainless steel single drainer sink unit with mixer taps and cupboards under, further matching range of wall and base units, ceramic tiled splashbacks, built-in double gas oven,

inset four-ring gas hob and extractor fan above.

There is an integrated dishwasher, refrigerator, ceramic tiled floor, breakfast bar, plumbing for automatic washing machine and door to the rear elevation.

On the first floor, bedroom one has built-in wardrobes, fitted dressing unit with drawers, airing cupboard with hot water cylinder and coved ceiling.

Laminate

A second bedroom has a fitted wardrobe, coved ceiling, radiator and two uPVC double glazed windows.

A third bedroom, with fitted wardrobes and top cupboards, has laminate flooring and coved ceiling.

A bathroom is fitted with a white suite, comprising panelled bath with shower fitment, vanity wash basin, low-flush, WC, fitted vanity unit, splashback tiling and coved ceiling.

Outside there is a garage with up-and-over door, power and light points, plus a uPVC door to the rear.

An established rear garden of generous size with lawn, flower and shrub borders, timber pergola, block-paved patio, timber garden store, cold water tap and outside lighting.



There is plenty of parking on the block paved driveway



The rear extension as viewed from the garden at Cranleigh Close



A well-maintained garden is another of the property's nice features

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29 Edward Street, Darlaston WS10 9SP

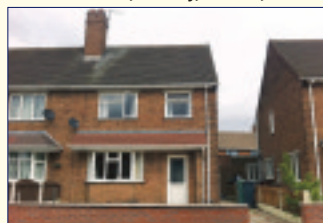


- Three bedrooms
- Fully fitted kitchen
- Lounge
- Dining area
- Family bathroom
- Guest toilets
- Double glazing
- Gas central heating
- Off road parking

£595 PCM

TO LET

10 Morris Avenue, Bentley, Walsall, WS2 0EB



- Three good bedrooms
- Front reception room
- Rear living room
- Fully fitted kitchen
- Dining area
- Downstairs shower room
- Family bathroom
- Front and rear gardens
- Gas central heating
- uPVC windows and doors

£575 PCM

TO LET

83 Follyhouse Lane, Highgate, Walsall WS1 3EL



- Three bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Fitted kitchen
- Family bathroom
- Gas central heated
- Double glazed windows
- Integral garage
- Driveway
- Rear gardens

£595 PCM

TO LET

58 Pargeter Street, Birchills, Walsall, WS2 8RP

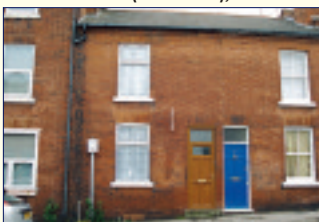


- Two bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Gas central heating
- Double glazed windows
- Rear garden

£475 PCM

TO LET

6 Lower Forster Street (Town Centre), Walsall WS1 1XA



- Two bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Double glazing
- Gas central heated
- Rear garden

£475 PCM

TO LET

31 Roebuck Glade, Willenhall WV12 4BS



- One Bedroom
- Lounge/Diner
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating

£400 PCM

TO LET

7 Cannon Street, Walsall, WS2 8AY



- Two double bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Kitchen
- Family bathroom
- New gas central heating
- Rear garden
- New carpets throughout

£425 PCM

TO LET

26 Lewis Close, Willenhall WV12 4EF



- Modern One Bedroom Flat
- Lounge
- Fitted kitchen
- Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Modern Gas Central Heating

£400 PCM



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Progress Drive, Cannock

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Number 16 Wood Road is an extended four-bedroom property with two bathrooms



Mature gardens are landscaped and well screened

The schools and good shopping of Tettenhall village are an easy walk from 16, Wood Road, a much improved property on a generous plot.

What was once a modest two bedroom bungalow has been doubled in size by previous owners.

Expansion upwards has created two first floor bedrooms alongside good storage, a proper central landing and a large bathroom en suite.

There are two further, double bedrooms and a full house bathroom on the ground floor providing total flexibility for a family's changing needs.

Living space also comes up to high expectations thanks to a hardwood conservatory beyond the dining room plus the central living room with fireplace and views to

the back. Details include ample kitchen storage with both the airing cupboard and a pantry off. The larger of the ground floor bedrooms is well fitted with built in, floor to ceiling storage and dressing table.

The landscaped gardens, with neat, gravelled pathways, shaped lawns, planted beds and good tree screening are a major selling point of the property.

Outlook

The rear outlook is over other mature Tettenhall garden land and to the front is the bonus of a further lawn and good driveway with plenty of turning and parking space.

To one side is the tandem garage with automatic doors, extending into the gardens with additional storage and workshop space.

The purchase price is £375,000. Details from Thomas Harvey in Tettenhall, 01902 758111.

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- ★ Kitchen with cooker and fridge
- ★ Two bedrooms both with fitted wardrobes
- ★ Bathroom with shower cubicle
- ★ Easily maintained gardens



WILLENHALL
MARSH ROAD

- ★ Detached property
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Two reception rooms
- ★ Fitted kitchen with oven & hob
- ★ Enclosed rear garden
- ★ Garage and parking
- ★ Part furnished
- ★ Available immediately

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£525 PCM

WILLENHALL

WAITE ROAD

- ★ Well presented semi detached property
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Fully fitted kitchen with dining area
- ★ First floor bathroom and ground floor shower room
- ★ Double glazing and central heating
- ★ Enclosed rear garden
- ★ Off road parking
- ★ Part furnished



LOWER GORNAL
MUSK LANE

- ★ Detached property in desirable location
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Unfurnished
- ★ Lounge with laminate flooring
- ★ Fully fitted kitchen with dishwasher, cooker and microwave
- ★ Bathroom with bath and shower
- ★ Garden
- ★ Garage and off road parking

£650 PCM



DUDLEY

MADISSON AVENUE, MERRY HILL CENTRE

- ★ Modern town house in popular location
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Lounge with laminate flooring
- ★ Fully fitted kitchen with oven hob and island
- ★ Main bathroom and separate ground floor WC
- ★ Master bedroom with en suite

£575 PCM



DUDLEY

FOREST ROAD

- ★ Well presented semi-detached property backing onto woodland
- ★ Central heating and double glazing
- ★ Lounge and separate dining room
- ★ Fitted kitchen with oven and dishwasher
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Bathroom with shower
- ★ Off road parking and garage
- ★ Secluded rear garden

£575 PCM



TIPTON

POWIS AVENUE

- ★ Well presented semi-detached property in popular location
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Unfurnished
- ★ 21 glazing & gas central heating
- ★ Lounge with feature fireplace
- ★ Separate dining room
- ★ Fully fitted kitchen, rear garden
- ★ Bathroom with bath and separate WC
- ★ garage and off road parking

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A tastefully appointed first floor apartment in Penn is on the market for offers based on £74,995.

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The apartment accommodation comprises entrance hall with wall light plus an airing cupboard with immersion heater and insulated hot water tank.

Spacious

A spacious living room has an electric storage heater, three double wall lights.

There is a 'Silavent' fresh flow air conditioning unit, an entry phone intercom and arch to the kitchen.

This has part-tiled walls, down-lighting beneath range of wall units, electric oven with base cupboard at side, sink unit with mixer tap, work surface, fridge/freezer.

There is a double bedroom with electric storage heater, air conditioning unit, three double wall lights and walk-in spacious storage mirror fronted double wardrobe.

In the bathroom there is part-tiling to walls, shower over panelled bath, WC, oval shaped hand basin with low-level vanity cupboard, electric down flow heater, extractor fan, electric razor point and strip light.

A service charge of £1,700 per annum is payable for ground rent. See agent for details.

Viewing is by appointment with the agents who will meet you at the property.

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This modern first floor apartment in Penn, Wolverhampton, suits prospective buyers over the age of 55

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BRINDLE ROAD, NEAR TAMEBRIDGE
● Modern three bed three storey townhouse ● Garage to rear ● Hall ● Downstairs W.C ● Lounge ● Conservatory ● Fitted Kitchen ● Master bedroom with En suite and Dressing room ● Family Bathroom ● Front and rear gardens
Offers around £149,950

NEW NEW NEW NEW

FOLLYHOUSE CLOSE, HIGHGATE
● Beautifully presented three bed semi ● Gas ch & upvc dgs ● Lounge ● Modern Dining Kitchen ● Stylish Bathroom with separate Shower ● Rear garden ● Driveway
Offers around £129,950

NEW NEW NEW NEW

CHERRY TREE AVENUE, YEW TREE
● Well presented two bed semi ● Gas ch and upvc dgs ● Lounge/Dining Room ● Modern fitted Kitchen ● Upstairs Bathroom ● Good sized rear garden
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46 High Road, Lane Head, Willenhall, WV12 4JQ



<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>Coppice Farm Way, Coppice Farm, ● 4 Bed Detached ● Extended, Executive Style ● Modern Kitchen/Bathroom ● Two Reception Rooms ● Must View To Appreciate £249,995 ONO</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>SOLD</p> <p>Riverbank Road, Willenhall, ● Large 4 Bed Detached House ● Two Reception Rooms ● Large Modern Fitted Kitchen ● Downstairs Wc / En-Suite ● Must View To Appreciate WAS £219,995 NOW £199,995</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>Woodcommon Grange, Pelsall, ● Extended 4 Bed Detached ● Immaculate Throughout ● Conservatory ● En-Suite, Study ● Must View To Appreciate £199,995 REDUCED</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>Fairford Gardens, Burntwood, ● Extended 3 Bed Semi ● Large Lounge/Diner ● D/Glazing, C/Heating ● Garage ● Sought After Location £159,950 ONO</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>Aberford Close, Willenhall, ● Extended 3 Bed Detached ● Two Reception Rooms ● Modern Fitted Kitchen ● Utility Room ● Double Bedroom ● Must View After Location £142,000 REDUCED</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>Hilton Road, New Invention, ● Immaculate 3 Bed ● Large Conservatory ● Modern Fitted Kitchen ● Utility Room ● Must View £119,995 ONO</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>The Briars, Aldridge, ● 2 Bed 2nd Floor Apartment ● Immaculate Condition ● Fitted Kitchen/Bathroom ● D/Glazing, C/Heating, En-Suite ● Must View To Appreciate £119,995 REDUCED</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>Sandland Road, New Invention, ● Large 3 Bed Semi ● D/Glazing, C/Heating ● Downstairs Wc ● Fitted Kitchen ● Good Location £93,500 ONO</p>
<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>Woodwards Place, Alumwell, ● Large 3 Bed House ● Well Presented ● Modern Fitted Kitchen ● Large Rear Garden ● MUST VIEW £89,995 ONO</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>SOLD</p> <p>Dorchester Road, Willenhall, ● 3 Bed End Terrace ● Open Plan Lounge ● Kitchen/Diner ● Central Heating ● Off Road Parking £85,000 ONO</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>SOLD</p> <p>Bickley Road, Bilston, ● 3 Bed Semi-Detached ● Conservatory ● Re-Fitted Kitchen ● Off Road Parking ● First Time Buyer/Investment £84,995 ONO</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>High Road, Willenhall, ● 2 Bed Mid Terrace ● Two Reception Rooms ● Off Road Parking ● Good Location ● Ideal Investment £59,995 ONO</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>SOLD</p> <p>Circuit Close, Willenhall, ● One Bed Starter Home ● Open Plan Lounge ● D/Glazing, C/Heating ● Modern Bathroom ● Must View £49,995 ONO</p>	<p>TO LET</p> <p>LET SIMILAR REQUIRED</p> <p>Hilton Lane, Great Wyrley, ● Three Bedroom Detached Property ● Double Glazing And Central Heating ● Off Road Parking And Rear Garden ● Large Conservatory £675 PCM</p>	<p>TO LET</p> <p>Deansgate, Wolverhampton, ● Modern 4 Bed Semi ● 3 Storey, En-Suite ● Modern Fitted Kitchen ● Off Road Parking ● MUST VIEW £600 PCM</p>	<p>TO LET</p> <p>Bath Road, Walsall, ● Large 4 Bed House ● Two Reception Rooms ● Double Glazing ● Central Heating ● Good Size £550 PCM</p>
<p>TO LET</p> <p>Sandbeds Road, Willenhall, ● Large 3 Bed Semi ● Part Double Glazing ● Central Heating ● Large Rear Garden ● Off Road Parking £520 PCM</p>	<p>TO LET</p> <p>Burnfields Way, Aldridge, ● Modern 2 Bed Apartment ● Ground Floor ● Fully Furnished ● Allocated Parking ● No Dss, No Pets £525 PCM</p>	<p>TO LET</p> <p>Rhys Thomas Close, ● Re-Furnished 3 Bed ● Modern Fitted Kitchen ● D/Glazing, C/Heating ● Good Location ● Must View £520 PCM</p>	<p>TO LET</p> <p>Squires Grove, Willenhall, ● Modern 2 Bed ● 2nd Floor Apartment ● D/Glazing, C/Heating ● Modern Fitted Kitchen ● NO DSS £500 PCM</p>	<p>TO LET</p> <p>LET SIMILAR REQUIRED</p> <p>Fairview Road, Wednesfield, ● Modern 2 Bed Flat ● Fitted Kitchen ● Fitted Bathroom ● Modern Bathroom ● Must View £495 PCM</p>	<p>TO LET</p> <p>Stroud Avenue, Willenhall, ● 2 x 2 Bed Flats ● Recent Refurbished ● Modern Kitchen ● Modern Bathroom ● D/Glazing ● Dss Welcome £450 PCM</p>	<p>TO LET</p> <p>Wolverhampton Street, Willenhall, ● Large 3 Bed ● 1st Floor Flat ● Fitted Kitchen ● D/Glazing, C/Heating ● Dss Welcome £425 PCM</p>	<p>TO LET</p> <p>Penn Road, Wolverhampton, ● Large 2 Bed Flat ● Fitted Kitchen ● Fitted Bathroom ● D/Glazing, C/Heating ● Dss Welcome £425 PCM</p>

Willenhall 01902 606595

www.prestige-estatesuk.com



Open Viewing
Sun 19th June
12noon-2pm



WILLENHALL
FURZEBANK WAY, OFF STROUD AVENUE

- ★ Pleasant semi detached property in corner plot location
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ UPVC double glazing
- ★ Spacious 14ft rear lounge
- ★ Upstairs bathroom with shower
- ★ Garage at rear with driveway
- ★ Fitted kitchen
- ★ Internal viewing recommended

£124,995 NO CHAIN



NEW INVENTION SANDRINGHAM AVENUE

- ★ Spacious extended semi-detached property in popular New Invention location
 - ★ Four bedrooms (potential to convert to five)
 - ★ Gas central heating, majority double glazed windows
 - ★ Spacious 21ft through lounge/dining room
 - ★ Refitted kitchen with a range of appliances, Utility room and downstairs WC
 - ★ Fitted bathroom with white suite and shower
 - ★ Garage and block paved driveway
- £157,500 Viewing Recommended**

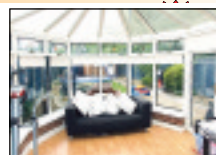


Open Viewing
Sat 18th June
11am-3pm



WILLENHALL CLARKES LANE

- ★ Surprisingly spacious much improved semi detached property
 - ★ Three bedrooms, Gas central heating
 - ★ UPVC double glazed windows Two reception rooms
 - ★ Superb UPVC double glazed conservatory
 - ★ Well equipped fitted kitchen
 - ★ Utility room and downstairs WC
 - ★ Various fixtures and fittings included
 - ★ DETACHED GARAGE AND REAR PARKING
- £141,500 FOR THIS WEEKEND ONLY**



WILLENHALL YORK AVENUE

- ★ Pleasantly appointed traditional style semi
 - ★ Popular County Bridge location
 - ★ Three bedrooms
 - ★ Gas central heating
 - ★ Double glazing
 - ★ Excellent refitted kitchen with appliances
 - ★ Fitted bathroom with shower
 - ★ Black paved driveway
- £132,500 FOR THIS WEEKEND ONLY, NO STAMP DUTY, NO CHAIN**



SHORT HEATH WOODSIDE WAY, THE WOODLANDS

- ★ Pleasant semi detached property being delightfully situated
 - ★ Was three bedrooms, currently two and a dressing room (could easily be converted back)
 - ★ Gas central heating
 - ★ UPVC double glazed windows
 - ★ 20ft through lounge/dining room
 - ★ Detached garage
 - ★ Block paved driveway and patio
- £139,950 OFFERS**



Open Viewing
Sat 18th June
10am-12noon



Open Viewing
Sat 18th June
10am-2pm



**NEW INVENTION
SANDLAND ROAD**

- ★ Spacious four bedroom semi-detached property
- ★ Two reception rooms
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ Part UPVC double glazed windows
- ★ Kitchen and store room/utility
- ★ Bathroom with white suite and shower
- ★ Rear garden
- ★ A family home offering excellent potential
- ★ No chain

£117,995 - NO CHAIN



SUMMER HAYES EDINBURGH DRIVE

- ★ Pleasantly appointed danner style bungalow
 - ★ Extended to the side elevation
 - ★ Three bedrooms
 - ★ Gas central heating
 - ★ UPVC double glazed windows
 - ★ Superb UPVC double glazed conservatory
 - ★ Extended fitted kitchen
 - ★ Extended bathroom with separate shower cubicle
- £139,950 OFFERS**



Open Viewing
Sat 18th June
2pm-4pm



WILLENHALL FARBROOK WAY, SUMMER HAYES

- ★ Pleasantly appointed extended semi
 - ★ Corner plot position
 - ★ Three bedrooms
 - ★ Two reception rooms
 - ★ Superb UPVC DG conservatory
 - ★ Gas CH
 - ★ UPVC DG windows
 - ★ Garage and block paved driveway
- £142,500**



Open Viewing
Sat 18th June
10am-12noon

SKITTS

SATURDAY & SUNDAY MARKET

The Properties featured in this advert are available to view without prior appointment over the Weekend of Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th June, simply turn up within the viewing times stated, or call 01902 631151 to make an alternative appointment



Open Viewing
Sat 18th June
10am-2pm



**BENTLEY, WALSALL
HAWTHORN PLACE**

- ★ Pleasantly appointed double fronted semi detached property
- ★ Two bedrooms
- ★ Two reception rooms
- ★ Fitted kitchen
- ★ 16ft through lounge
- ★ Generous rear garden
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ UPVC double glazed windows

£99,995 IDEAL FIRST TIME PURCHASE



WILLENHALL UPLANDS AVENUE

- ★ Pleasantly appointed traditional style detached bungalow
 - ★ Cul-de-sac position
 - ★ UPVC double glazing
 - ★ Gas central heating
 - ★ Spacious 20ft lounge/dining room
 - ★ Fitted kitchen inc. oven and hob
 - ★ Generous lawned side and rear gardens
- £145,000 OFFERS**



Open Viewing
Sat 18th June
10am-1pm



WEDNESFIELD/WILLENHALL WADDENSBROOK LANE

- ★ Modern style detached bungalow
 - ★ Two bedrooms, master with fitted wardrobes
 - ★ Spacious lounge/diner
 - ★ UPVC double glazing
 - ★ Fitted kitchen
 - ★ Front and rear gardens, rear with paved patio
 - ★ Detached garage
 - ★ Ample off road parking
- £149,995 OFFERS, NO CHAIN**



Open Viewing
Sat 18th June
10am-2pm



WILLENHALL BURE GROVE, RIVERPOINT

- ★ Pleasantly appointed modern style semi
 - ★ Cul-de-sac location
 - ★ Two bedrooms
 - ★ En-suite shower room
 - ★ Fitted dining kitchen inc oven and hob
 - ★ Fitted bathroom with
 - ★ Gas central heating
 - ★ Double glazed windows
- £65,500 FOR 50% SHARED OWNERSHIP**



Open Viewing
Sat 18th June & Sun 19th June
10am-1pm



COPPICE FARM TORRIDON ROAD

- ★ Splendidly appointed terraced style bungalow
 - ★ Beautifully presented accommodation throughout
 - ★ Two bedrooms, both with built-in wardrobes
 - ★ Gas central heating, UPVC double glazed windows
 - ★ Superb UPVC double glazed conservatory
 - ★ Smart fitted kitchen including appliances
 - ★ Fitted bathroom with Velux roof window
 - ★ Block paved driveway. Viewing essential
- £155,000 OFFERS**



Open Viewing
Sat 18th June & Sun 19th June
10am-2pm



WILLENHALL SHEPHERD DRIVE

- ★ End town house style property near to Pool Hayes school
 - ★ Three bedrooms
 - ★ Gas central heating
 - ★ UPVC double glazed windows
 - ★ 19ft through lounge
 - ★ Upstairs bathroom with shower
 - ★ Generous rear garden
 - ★ Internal viewing recommended
- £99,500 OFFERS**



WILLENHALL KINVER AVENUE

- ★ Pleasantly appointed town house style property
 - ★ Ideal for first time purchasers
 - ★ Popular location near to Pool Hayes School
 - ★ Two bedrooms
 - ★ Gas central heating
 - ★ UPVC double glazed windows
 - ★ 19ft through lounge
 - ★ Gardens and off road parking
- £94,995**



WILLENHALL HAWKSWELL DRIVE

- ★ Pleasantly appointed, much improved modern style semi
 - ★ Two bedrooms
 - ★ Gas central heating
 - ★ UPVC double glazed windows
 - ★ Refitted kitchen with appliances
 - ★ Fitted bathroom with Jacuzzi type bath
 - ★ Carpet and block paved driveway
- £110,000 OFFERS**



WALSALL REDBROOK ROAD

- ★ Pleasant modern style semi in cul-de-sac location
 - ★ Ideal first time purchase
 - ★ Two bedrooms
 - ★ Gas central heating
 - ★ UPVC double glazed windows
 - ★ Fitted kitchen inc. oven and hob
 - ★ Fitted bathroom with
 - ★ 14ft rear lounge
 - ★ Off road parking
- £99,950 VIEWING RECOMMENDED**



WILLENHALL EWHURST CLOSE

- ★ Pleasant extended four bedroom detached family residence
 - ★ Popular Hadley Heath location
 - ★ Corner plot position
 - ★ Gas central heating
 - ★ Majority UPVC double glazing
 - ★ Extended lounge and hallway
 - ★ 28ft modern length garage
 - ★ Lovely established garden in front, rear and side
- £169,950 OFFERS**

www.skitts.net

Willenhall
01902 631151

Wednesfield
01902 732324

Tipton
0121 520 2255

Wednesbury
0121 505 1818

Bilston
01902 353578

Sedgley
01902 686868

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The UK's number one property website



Gardening



Atool rack in racing green, from £9.95, produced by Burgon & Ball, www.burgonandball.com



Personalised wooden garden sign by Primitive Angel Country Store



Burgon & Ball pocket folding steel knife set with brass handled mini sharpening steel, priced £37.95

Making father's day with gardening gifts

If you're thinking of giving your dad socks or a tie for Father's Day, think again, because there's a plethora of gifts which the green-fingered man in your life will appreciate.

If the shed's his haven, an escape from the household chores, a place he can sit quietly to reflect, then there are a few items which may suit him down to a tee.

If his shed needs a good tidy, treat him to a practical, stylish powder-coated tool rack in racing green with five tool clips plus rawlplugs and screws for fixing (£9.95, Burgon & Ball, www.burgonandball.com). At

least then he won't be tripping over his spades or hoes when he wants to potter in his wooden haven.

You can personalise your gift to your shed-loving dad with a personalised wooden garden sign by Primitive Angel Country Store (£15, www.notonthehighstreet.com, 0845 259 1359). Each hanging is hand-cut, hand-painted then aged and finished off with rusty wire and homespun tie and embellishments. Wording can be changed and there's a choice of colour edging.

Anyone who's ever tired of watering hanging baskets may welcome an easy-to-water alternative, the Planter, a vertical and modular planting system with carefully positioned holes to allow for year-round planting possibilities. Its real plus,

though, is its internal watering facility. Just attach your hose pipe to it (it has a universal connector at the base) and your watering can be done in seconds.

Available in a range of colours, it can be built into a variety of lengths to suit your requirements (from £21.99, www.planter.co.uk or phone 0845 619 7266).

Bones

Give your dad a well-earned break by splashing out on an old-fashioned deck chair where he can rest his weary bones after gardening. A stylish leather trimmed deck chair with flag trim (£100) and two Union Jack cushions (£35) are available from Bradleys the Tannery (www.bradleysthetannery.co.uk, 01746 766 563).

No toolkit would be complete without a pocket knife, to cut those awkward branches or even snip a piece of garden twine. Burgon & Ball offers a range of pocket knives and miniature steel presentation sets, with brass handled mini sharpening steel in luxurious presentation box (£37.95, www.burgonandball.com).

For the dad whose shears are always blunt, take the hard work out of pruning with the Bosch ASB 10, SLI cordless shrub shear.

Highly manoeuvrable, with virtually no stalling, up to 100 minutes' run time and three hours to charge, it has three blades which are interchangeable and will take the donkey work out of pruning shrubs (£109.99, available from all good garden and DIY shops, www.bosch-garden.co.uk).

Sail new waters on the cress of a wave



Watercress is a simple – and delicious – addition to your garden

The staple addition to egg mayonnaise sandwiches, watercress can also spice up a salad, or be used to make a subtle soup – and it's so easy to grow in pots and troughs or a patch of ground in the greenhouse or outdoors.

It can be sown at any time of year in pots on a windowsill, or outside in containers, although seeds may have to be acquired from specialist catalogues.

Alternatively you can root cuttings from bunches bought from the greengrocer, planting the thick bits you'd normally throw away when you trim it before eating.

Keep it moist on the windowsill and soon you should see new shoots appearing.

Tub

The contents of the pot can then be planted into an outdoor tub or into the garden and seedlings which will appear once it is well established can be transplanted to start new bunches. Watercress needs to be kept well watered and well fed with fertiliser such as chicken manure pellets in the summer, to keep the plants leafy and cut them back regularly so they don't become straggly.

www.skitts.net

Wednesfield
01902 732324

Willenhall
01902 631151

Great Bridge
0121 520 2255

Wednesbury
0121 505 1818

Bilston
01902 353578

Sedgley
01902 686868

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The UK's number one property website



FURNISHED £550 PCM - UNFURNISHED £525 PCM

- WILLENHALL
HOPWOOD LOCK COURT**
- ★ Luxury apartment
 - ★ Two bedrooms
 - ★ Lounge/kitchen including fridge/freezer, washing machine, oven and hob
 - ★ Bathroom
 - ★ Gas central heating
 - ★ Allocated parking
 - ★ Available immediately



£550 PCM

- WILLENHALL
UPLANDS ROAD**
- ★ Extended detached bungalow
 - ★ Two bedrooms
 - ★ Spacious through
 - ★ Two reception rooms
 - ★ Fully fitted kitchen with oven and hob
 - ★ Gas central heating
 - ★ Double garage
 - ★ Part furnished



£550 PCM

- BILSTON
ANVIL CLOSE**
- ★ Attractive semi-detached property
 - ★ Freshly decorated inside and out and newly carpeted
 - ★ Three bedrooms
 - ★ Gas central heating and double glazing
 - ★ Fitted kitchen with oven and hob
 - ★ Bathroom with shower
 - ★ Off road parking
 - ★ Enclosed rear garden



£525 PCM

- WEDNESFIELD
NORDELY ROAD**
- ★ Mid terrace property
 - ★ Three bedrooms
 - ★ Bathroom with shower
 - ★ Kitchen diner
 - ★ Two reception rooms
 - ★ Downstairs wc
 - ★ Large garden



£525 PCM

- WOLVERHAMPTON
DEANS ROAD**
- ★ Pleasantly appointed semi detached property
 - ★ Gas central heating & double glazing
 - ★ French style patio doors leading to the rear garden
 - ★ Three bedrooms
 - ★ Double garage
 - ★ Part furnished



£500 PCM

- BILSTON
ST CHADS**
- ★ Traditional style detached bungalow
 - ★ Two bedrooms
 - ★ Gas central heating and double glazing
 - ★ Lounge
 - ★ Dining kitchen
 - ★ Shower room
 - ★ Enclosed rear garden
 - ★ Off road parking



£475 PCM



£475 PCM

- BILSTON
BECKETT STREET**
- ★ Pleasantly appointed mid terrace home
 - ★ Two reception rooms
 - ★ Modern kitchen
 - ★ Two double bedrooms
 - ★ Ground floor bathroom with WC
 - ★ Pleasant garden to rear
 - ★ Viewing highly recommended

- WEDNESBURY
HALL STREET**
- ★ Recently redecorated ground flat
 - ★ Fully furnished
 - ★ Large well kept garden and landscaping
 - ★ Kitchen with appliances
 - ★ Two bedrooms
 - ★ Bathroom shower
 - ★ Double glazing
 - ★ Gas central heating
 - ★ Communal gardens and allocated parking



£540 PCM

- TIPTON
GOUGH DRIVE**
- ★ One bedroom ground floor apartment
 - ★ Fully furnished
 - ★ Fully fitted kitchen with oven, hob and fridge/freezer
 - ★ Double bedroom
 - ★ Bathroom with bath and electric shower
 - ★ Large living and dining area
 - ★ Communal gardens and allocated parking



£425 PCM

- TIPTON
HOLDEN CROFT, TIVDIALE QUAY**
- ★ Well presented one bedroom bungalow
 - ★ One bedroom
 - ★ One bathroom
 - ★ One kitchen
 - ★ One living room
 - ★ One dining room
 - ★ One reception room
 - ★ One terrace
 - ★ One garden
 - ★ One parking space
 - ★ One carport
 - ★ One garage
 - ★ One driveway
 - ★ One front garden
 - ★ One rear garden
 - ★ One off road parking for two cars



£375 PCM

- TIPTON
UPPER CHURCH LANE**
- ★ First floor maisonette
 - ★ Large living area
 - ★ Kitchen with bath and electric shower
 - ★ Bathroom
 - ★ Enclosed rear garden
 - ★ Off road parking



£375 PCM



350 PCM

- TIPTON
FERGUSON DRIVE**
- ★ One bed first floor flat
 - ★ Storage heating
 - ★ Unfurnished
 - ★ Lounge
 - ★ Bathroom with bath and shower
 - ★ Fitted kitchen with integrated oven and hob
 - ★ Allocated parking

- KINGSWINFORD
RAGES ROAD**
- ★ Well presented studio apartment
 - ★ Fully furnished
 - ★ Large well kept garden and landscaping
 - ★ Kitchen with appliances
 - ★ Bathroom with shower cable
 - ★ Double glazed throughout
 - ★ Gas central heating
 - ★ Off road parking



£325 PCM

- WILLENHALL
BIRCH COPPICE GARDENS**
- ★ First floor maisonette
 - ★ One bedroom
 - ★ Kitchen with cooker
 - ★ Bathroom with shower
 - ★ UPVC double glazing
 - ★ Unfurnished



£325 PCM

- CRADLEY HEATH
HALESOWEN ROAD**
- ★ One bedroom ground floor maisonette
 - ★ Gas central heating
 - ★ Double glazing
 - ★ Bathroom with electric shower
 - ★ Off road parking
 - ★ Convenient for local amenities and Old Hill Village Centre



£325 PCM

- WOLVERHAMPTON
TETTERHALL ROAD**
- ★ Attractive self contained second floor flat
 - ★ Popular location
 - ★ Large lounge
 - ★ Kitchen
 - ★ Double bedroom
 - ★ Bathroom
 - ★ Unfurnished
 - ★ Students with grants or housing benefit applicants considered

3 Trees Road, Walsall

This traditionally styled semi detached residence is situated in this popular residential area and benefits from gas fired central heating and double glazing and is in need of improvement and modernisation. Constructed of brick under a pitch tiled roof the property is set back from the road behind a small fore garden and comprises: Enclosed porch, reception hall, front living room, rear lounge, kitchen, guest wc, conservatory, three bedrooms, bathroom, fore and rear garden.

LOT 1**GUIDE PRICE: £75,000-£85,000****5 Roebuck Road, Walsall****LOT 2****GUIDE PRICE £40,000-£50,000**

In need of modernisation and improvement, an ideal investment opportunity to this discerning buyer to let purchaser which offers gas central heating and part double glazing briefly comprises:- Reception Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Utility Room, Dining Room, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Fore and Rear Gardens and Garage.

Bakery Cottage, Sedgeberrow, Near Evesham**LOT 3****GUIDE PRICE £50,000-£60,000**

An interesting property offering a project but with character. Two ground floor rooms, plus bread oven, two bedrooms. In need of modernisation
Viewings: Friday, 10 June 2011 12.00 noon; Friday, 17 June 2011 12.00 noon; Friday, 24 June 2011 12.00 noon; Friday, 1 July 2011 12 noon

38 Hazel Avenue, New Oscott, Sutton Coldfield**LOT 3A****GUIDE PRICE £50,000-£60,000**

First floor maisonette in a popular residential area comprising Entrance Porch, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom, Shower Room, Rear garden, Garage.

105 Chepstow Road, Bloxwich**LOT 4****GUIDE PRICE £50,000-£60,000**

This modern mid town house residence has undergone modernisation and improvement and has gas fired central heating and double glazing. Ideally situated to the first time buyer or investor. The accommodation comprises:- Lounge, Kitchen Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Off Road Parking, Fore and Rear Gardens.

17 Leighswood Road, Aldridge**LOT 5****GUIDE PRICE £120,000-£130,000**

In need of modernisation, this unusual detached house situated in a particularly central location offers most appealing and characterful accommodation which offers potential. The accommodation includes: Hall, through Lounge, Breakfast/Kitchen, two Bedrooms, Bathroom, separate WC, attractive rear garden and wide frontage with parking.

2 Wigginsmill Road, Wednesbury**LOT 6****GUIDE PRICE £80,000-£100,000**

This 1970's detached dormer bungalow is situated in a prominent corner position and comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Inner Hallway, Bathroom, Four Bedrooms, Garage, Fore and Rear Gardens

**COMMERCIAL INVESTMENT
King Street Precinct, Darlaston****LOT 7****GUIDE PRICE £45,000-£55,000**

2 single storey lock up shops on a corner plot at the Victoria Road end of the precinct, 36a corner unit currently vacant, 36b currently let at £2340.00 per annum comprising: Shop area, beauty room, kitchen, large store room, w.c. Viewing by appointment

**COMMERCIAL INVESTMENT
Victoria Road, Darlaston****LOT 8****GUIDE PRICE £45,000-£55,000**

Two storey semi-detached shop premises currently let as a sandwich bar at £4680.00 per annum comprising: Ground floor - serving area and food preparation area, First Floor - store room, w.c. Viewing by appointment

38 Norman Road, Walsall**LOT 9****GUIDE PRICE £190,000-£210,000**

Set on a good size plot in a desirable location, this detached family home offers tremendous scope for improvement and comprises:- Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, Additional Room, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Garage, Fore and Rear Gardens.

11 Anderson Road, Erdington, Birmingham**LOT 10****GUIDE PRICE £70,000-£90,000**

Two bed mid terraced property comprising:- Vestibule, Hallway, Through Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Rear Garden.

VIEWING DAYS:**17th June, 24th June, 1st July 20th June, 27th June and 4th July****17 Leighswood Road - 2.00 pm****38 Hazel Avenue - 10.30 am****5 Roebuck Road - 2.30 pm****2 Wigginsmill Road - 11.00 am****105 Chepstow Road - 3.00 pm****38 Norman Road - 3.30 pm****11 Anderson Road - 11.00 am****3 Trees Road - 4.00 pm****Bakery Cottage - 12 noon****17th June, 24th June and 1st July**

Date:
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Venue: ****NEW VENUE****
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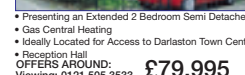
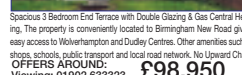
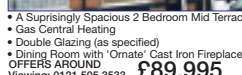
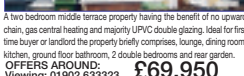
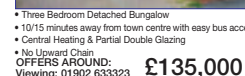
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Stockwell End, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton



An exceptionally well presented first floor period style apartment set in a sought after and convenient location within easy walking distance to Tettenhall Green. Spacious property proudly boasts a communal entrance hall, open plan style kitchen area which offers a range of fitted appliances including fridge, freezer, dishwasher, electric oven, breakfast bar, 2 double bedrooms, lounge, shower room and central heating is provided throughout. A communal car park and gardens are provided

£725 pcm

Wharfedale Street, Wednesbury



A 4 bedroomed middle terraced property with gas fired central heating. The property comprises - porch, reception hall, lounge with feature fireplace, dining room with feature fireplace, fitted kitchen with gas cooker, guest cloak with wash basin & w.c. cellar, on the first floor 2 bedrooms and family bathroom with wash basin, bath, w.c and separate shower cubicle, on the second floor two further bedrooms. View 0121 525 5520.

£695 pcm

Darvel Road, Willenhall



THREE bedroom extended link detached family home having the benefit of fitted intruder alarm, double glazing & gas central heating. The well maintained property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, kitchen diner, utility room, three bedrooms, en-fitted family bathroom with shower, garage, off road parking for 3 vehicles and rear garden.

£675 pcm

Hollyhock Court, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton



Stunning new apartments available in the heart of Wolverhampton Hollyhock Court is situated in a desirable residential area of Wolverhampton. West Park is within walking distance and is renowned for its boating lake, conservatory and outdoor events. With a leisure stroll you can walk to the City Centre and gain access to the City's major art, leisure and retail attractions, with access to some of the regions finest places for eating and entertainment.

£650 pcm

Bright Street, Wolverhampton



Paul Dubberley & Co are pleased to present a delightful six bedroom semi-detached property situated near the city centre. The property consists of an exceptionally large dining room, fully fitted kitchen, dining room and bathroom all located on the ground floor, first floor benefits from three bedrooms with the second floor with another two bedrooms. The property is within walking distance to City Centre, Wolverhampton University and local shops and A66 and A50.

£650 pcm

Victoria Street, Willenhall



A modern three bedroom two storey town house situated in a popular location just a short distance from Willenhall town centre and with easy access to motorway networks. The property offers a spacious layout and high standard of accommodation and briefly comprises of Lounge, Modern fitted kitchen, Guest WC, Three good size bedrooms with en suite, Rear garden, Dg and Gch. No Dss

£595 pcm

Riverbank Road, Willenhall



A semi detached property having the benefit of double glazing and central heating. The accommodation briefly comprises of lounge, fitted kitchen/diner with built in oven hob and extractor, three bedrooms, master with en-suite shower room and family bathroom. The property has an enclosed rear garden

£550 pcm

Newcomen Drive, Tipton



The property comprises a three bedroom town house benefiting from central heating and double glazing. The accommodation includes three bedrooms, lounge, fitted kitchen with oven and hob, bathroom, two car parking spaces. Viewing 0121 525 5520

£535 pcm

Batmanshill Road, Tipton



The property comprises a modern, end terraced house having the benefit of central heating and double glazing. The accommodation includes reception hall with guest w.c. off, fitted kitchen with oven and hob, two bedrooms lounge with laminate flooring, bathroom with shower over bath, master bedroom with built in wardrobes, secure car parking space to rear, enclosed rear garden.

£525 pcm

Martin Street, Parkfields, Wolverhampton



A well presented three bedroom traditional bay window terrace situated in a well established popular location the property has enjoyed extensive refurbishment throughout and offers a high standard of accommodation which requires internal viewing to fully appreciate. Briefly comprising of Lounge, Dining room, Modern well equipped fitted kitchen, Refitted downstairs bathroom, Three good size bedrooms, Private rear garden, Dg and Gch. Dss considered.

£525 pcm

Johnson Road, Darlaston



A well presented three bedroom terrace situated in a quiet cul de sac in this well established popular location the property has enjoyed extensive refurbishment throughout and offers a high standard of accommodation which requires internal viewing to fully appreciate. Briefly comprising of Lounge, Dining room, Modern well equipped fitted kitchen, Refitted downstairs bathroom, Three good size bedrooms, Private rear garden, large storage shed/workshop Dg and Gch. No Dss

£525 pcm

Oak Avenue, Bentley, Walsall



TO LET A three bedroom semi detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. The property briefly comprises, reception hall, lounge with feature fireplace, separate dining room, fitted kitchen, side entrance with store room, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, off road parking and front and rear gardens.

£525 pcm

High Meadows, Compton, Wolverhampton



A superbly appointed and deceptively spacious two bedroom first floor apartment. Situated in a most desirable neighbourhood close to excellent local amenities with easy access to city centre. Briefly comprising of Reception hallway, Lounge, Modern fitted kitchen, two good size bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom, Dg, Communal Gardens, No Dss

£500 pcm

Willingsworth Road, Wednesbury



A well presented 2 bedroom and terrace property, situated in popular residential area & convenient for bus routes & metro. Benefiting from central heating, double glazing & no upward chain. Briefly comprising reception hall, lounge, dining kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom w.c., off road parking to the front & enclosed rear garden.

£500 pcm

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Hawksford Crescent, Low Hill, Wolverhampton



A well presented three bedroom traditional bay fronted semi detached property, situated in a quiet cul de sac this impressive property has enjoyed extensive refurbishment and internal viewing is essential to fully appreciate the level of accommodation which briefly comprises of Lounge, Refitted modern fitted kitchen, three good size bedrooms, Refitted bathroom, Private rear garden, Dg and Gch.

£500 pcm

Bloxwich Road South, Willenhall



Luxury 2 bedroom spacious apartments having the benefit of UPVC double & triple glazing, gas central heating & intruder alarm. These splendid larger than average properties briefly comprise, reception hall, good size lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen with integrated appliances, two bedrooms (en-suite shower room to master), bathroom w.c. & allocated parking spaces.

£495 pcm

Cook Street, Wednesbury



The property comprises a modern third floor apartment having the benefit of electric heating and double glazing. The accommodation includes two bedrooms, bathroom/wc, hall, lounge, fitted kitchen having oven and hob, allocated parking space. Viewing 0121 525 5520

£495 pcm

Bonneville Close, Tipton



Modern top floor apartment. Security entrance door, gas central heating, fully fitted kitchen with oven & hob, Lounge with 2 Juliet balcony overlook the canal, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with electric shower, Laminated throughout, off road parking.

£495 pcm

Bloxwich Road South, Willenhall



Luxury 2 bedroom spacious apartments having the benefit of UPVC double & triple glazing, gas central heating & fitted intruder alarm. These splendid larger than average properties briefly comprise, reception hall, good size lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen with integrated appliances, two bedrooms (en-suite shower room to master), bathroom w.c. & allocated parking spaces.

£495 pcm

Corporation Street, Wednesbury



A well presented two bedroom traditional terrace. Situated in a popular location close to excellent local amenities and with easy access to M6 Motorway networks. Briefly comprising of Two reception rooms, Fitted kitchen, Two double bedrooms, Family bathroom Dg and Gch.

£475 pcm

Ashley Street, Bilston



*2 BEDROOM *BILSTON *TERRACED *TWO RECEPTION ROOMS *KITCHEN *BATHROOM *REAR GARDEN *DOUBLE GLAZED *DSS CONSIDERED

£450 pcm

Temple Road, Willenhall



A superbly appointed and stylishly presented two bedroom traditional terrace set in a popular location just a short distance from Willenhall town centre. The property has undergone extensive refurbishment throughout and is fitted to a high standard making internal viewing essential to fully appreciate the level of accommodation. To include two reception rooms, New fitted kitchen, Downstairs bathroom, Two double bedrooms, Dg and Gch. No Dss

£450 pcm

Lawton Court, Wolverhampton



First floor, flat with secure entrance, well situated in quiet cul-de-sac position within easy access to Wolverhampton centre. Excellent condition, fully carpeted, two double bedrooms, underfloor heating and double glazing throughout. Kitchen appliances include washing machine, fridge and electric cooker. Communal gardens. Private secure garage. Council Band B

£450 pcm

Tippstone Close, Tipton



A well presented modern one bedroom apartment. Situated in a popular location close to excellent local amenities and with easy access to motorway networks. The property offers a good standard of accommodation a briefly comprises of Lounge, Modern fitted kitchen, Bathroom and double bedroom.

£425 pcm

Westbourne Court, Westbourne Road, Wednesbury



A 2 bedroom ground floor flat, the property comprises - lounge with electric heater, fitted kitchen, shower room with shower cubicle, wash basin & w.c, 2 bedrooms and allocated car parking space to rear.

£400 pcm

Moreville Croft, Bilston



Well presented first floor apartment on popular residential development, having double glazing and electric heating the property comprises hallway, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, parking space

£400 pcm

Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury



A first floor 2/3 bedroom flat with a spacious layout and easy access to motorway networks. Briefly comprising of Lounge, Kitchen, Good size bedrooms, Family bathroom. No Dss

£395 pcm

Merstone Close, Bilston



An immaculate purpose built ground floor flat which benefits from upvc double glazing and electric heating. The property comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, 1 Bedroom, Bathroom, Communal Gardens & Allocated Parking. Viewing Highly Recommended.

£350 pcm



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- Four Bedroomed Detached House
- Refitted Kitchen with Granite worktops and integral Appliances
- Refitted guests W.C. and Bathroom
- Side Driveway and Garage
- Fore and Rear Gardens
- UPVC double glazing and Gas central Heating

OFFERS £194,950



BRADGATE CLOSE, SHORT HEATH

- Four Bedroomed Detached
- Deceptively Spacious Accommodation
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Conservatory
- Guest Cloakroom
- Integral Garage

OFFERS £179,995



CHAUCER AVENUE, WILLENHALL

- Modern Three Bedroomed Semi-detached
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Two Reception Rooms
- Front Driveway and rear garden
- Side Garage
- Possible opportunity to buy on 50% shared ownership

OFFERS £124,950 or £62,500 for 50% share



SANDBEDS ROAD, WILLENHALL

- Three Bedroomed Semi
- Immaculately Presented
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Fitted Kitchen & Utility Area
- Bathroom with Bath & Shower Cubicle
- Off-road Parking for Multiple Vehicles

REDUCED TO OFFERS £119,950



QUEENS LEA (OFF LUCKNOW RD), WILLENHALL

- Three bedroomed semi-detached
- Double glazing and gas central heating
- Spacious lounge
- Kitchen with large dining area
- Off road parking facilities
- Perfect for first time buyer

OFFERS £109,950



ALEXANDRA ROAD, KINGS HILL, WEDNESBURY

- Three Bed Town House
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Through Lounge/Dining Room
- Kitchen with Hob and Oven
- Off- road Parking Facilities
- Enclosed Rear Garden

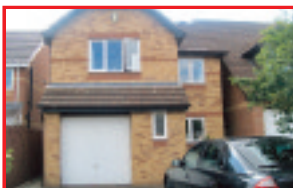
OFFERS £109,950



GLOUCESTER ROAD, WALSALL

- ★ Four Bed Detached
- ★ Lounge & Dining Area
- ★ Kitchen & Breakfast Room
- ★ Sitting Room & Garage
- ★ Bathroom & Laundry
- ★ GCH & UPVC DG

£950pcm



SCHOLARS WALK, RUSHALL, WALSALL

- ★ Modern detached
- ★ Part furnished
- ★ Four bedrooms master having en-suite
- ★ Two reception rooms
- ★ Kitchen with some appliances
- ★ Garage
- ★ Front & rear garden

£650pcm



COBDEN STREET, DARLASTON, WEDNESBURY

- ★ Fully Refurbished
- ★ Mid Terrace Property
- ★ Two Reception Rooms
- ★ Two Bedrooms & Luxury Bathroom
- ★ Newly Fitted Kitchen With Hob & Oven
- ★ UPVC DG & GCH

£525pcm



INTOWN ROW, WALSALL

- ★ Converted Brewhouse
- ★ Two Bedrooms
- ★ Kitchen & Lounge
- ★ Bathroom & UPVC DG
- ★ Storage Heaters
- ★ Courtyard

£475pcm



LICHFIELD ROAD, WILLENHALL

- ★ Semi-Detached
- ★ Three Bedrooms
- ★ Lounge & Bathroom
- ★ Kitchen/ Dining Room
- ★ GCH & DG
- ★ Garage & Garden

£475pcm



PARKLANDS GARDENS, WALSALL

- ★ Second Floor Flat
- ★ Lounge/Dining Room
- ★ Kitchen
- ★ One Bedroom
- ★ Shower Room
- ★ Storage Heaters

£425pcm



MAIN STREET, STONNALL

- ★ Split Level Flat
- ★ Lounge & Kitchen
- ★ Two Bedrooms
- ★ Bathroom
- ★ Gas Central Heating
- ★ Part Double Glazed

£400pcm



KINGS COURT, BRIDGE STREET, WALSALL

- ★ First floor flat
- ★ One bedroom
- ★ Lounge
- ★ Kitchen with hob & oven
- ★ DG & Storage heating
- ★ One parking space

£365pcm



ELM COURT, SUTTON ROAD, WALSALL

- ★ Ground Floor
- ★ One bedroom
- ★ Lounge
- ★ Kitchen
- ★ Bathroom
- ★ Some appliances

£350pcm

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Rowley Street Walsall

- Four bedroom terrace property
- Lounge ● Dining Room
- Central Heating ● Off-Road Parking
- Rear garden
- DHSS Accepted

£600 PCM



Broad Lane Essington

- Three Bedroom Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Central Heating
- Extended Kitchen
- Sorry No DHSS

£525 PCM



Dorchester Road Willenhall

- Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Dining Room
- Conservatory
- Front Driveway with Gates
- Sorry no DHSS, Smokers or Pets

£525 PCM



Penblebury Close Walsall

- Two Bedroom Second Floor Apartment
- Lounge/Diner
- Allocated Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- Sorry NO DHSS, Pets or Smokers

£525 PCM



Field Road Bloxwich

- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Large Lounge ● Kitchen
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking
- DHSS Accepted

£500 PCM



Windrush Close Pelsall

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Lounge, Fitted Kitchen
- Electric Heating
- Double Glazing
- Allocated Parking
- Sorry No DHSS

£495 PCM



Blackthorne Road Walsall

- Three Bed Semi - Detached
- Entrance Porch
- Family Bathroom
- Off Road Parking
- Sorry no DHSS

£495 PCM



Well Lane Bloxwich

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Newly Fitted Kitchen
- Ground Floor Wet Room
- Large Driveway
- Large Rear Garden
- DHSS Accepted

£495 PCM



Mossley Close Bloxwich

- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace House
- Lounge ● Kitchen/Diner
- Cloakroom W.C. ● Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating ● Front & Rear Gardens

£495 PCM



New Forest Road WALSALL

- Two Bedroom Semi
- Fitted Kitchen ● Family Bathroom
- Lounge ● Garage
- Sorry No DHSS

£475 PCM



Lancaster Place Bloxwich

- Two bedroom End Terrace
- Popular cul-de-sac Location
- New Fitted Kitchen and New Carpets
- Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating
- Sorry No DHSS Pets or Smokers

£475 PCM



Nursery Road Bloxwich

- Two Bedroom Terrace
- Entrance Hall ● Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner ● Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing/Central Heating
- DHSS ACCEPTED

£475 PCM



Kenilworth Crescent Walsall

- Two Bedroom End Terrace
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking
- Sorry No DHSS

£475 PCM



Guild Court Walker Road

- Two bedroom Apartment
- Fitted Kitchen ● Large Lounge
- Double Glazing ● Central Heating
- Allocated Parking ● DHSS Accepted

£450 PCM



Rockingham Close Bloxwich

- Two bedroom flat
- Part furnished ● Kitchen appliances
- Double glazing, electric heating
- Off-road parking
- DHSS Accepted

£450 PCM



Kingfisher Court Willenhall

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Lounge, Fitted Kitchen ● Bathroom
- Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating
- Secure Off Road Parking ● Sorry No DHSS

£450 PCM



Yemscroft, Lichfield Road Rushall

- Two Bed Top Floor Flats
- Lounge ● Kitchen with Appliances
- Bathroom ● Shared Communal Gardens
- Sorry no DHSS, Smokers or Pets

From £450 PCM



Rowland Street Walsall

- Two Bedrooms
- One Reception room
- Gas Central Heating
- Rear Garden
- DHSS Accepted

£450 PCM



Beatrice Street Bloxwich

- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- DHSS Accepted

£450 PCM



Marton Court Bloxwich

- Two bedroom apartment
- Fitted kitchen, Lounge
- Double glazing & Heating
- DHSS Accepted

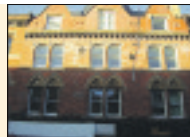
£430 PCM



Tanners Court Walsall

- One & Two Bedroom Apartments
- Lounge ● Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom with Shower
- Sorry No DHSS

From £425 PCM



Bridge Street Chambers Walsall

- One bed Part Furnished
- Lounge ● Fitted kitchen
- Bathroom
- Double glazing
- DHSS Accepted

£400 PCM



Bloxwich Road Walsall

- One Bedroom Flat
- Off Road Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- DHSS Accepted

£380 PCM



Lincoln Road Walsall

- Three Bedroom Flat
- Double Glazing
- Electric Heating
- Off Road Parking ● DHSS Accepted

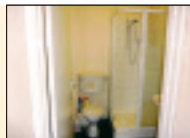
£375 PCM



Barracks Lane Bloxwich

- One Bedroom Flat
- Kitchen, Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- DHSS Accepted

£325 PCM



Green Lane Walsall

- One Bed Flat - Self - Contained
- Large Lounge
- Kitchen ● Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating ● Sorry no DHSS

£325 PCM



Harrison Street Bloxwich

- One Bedroom Flat
- Lounge ● Fitted Kitchen
- Double Glazing ● Electric heating
- DHSS Accepted

£300 PCM

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Walsall

Home is overlooking local nature reserve

Overlooking Valley Park nature reserve and close to a wide range of excellent amenities, this detached home has much to attract potential purchasers.

The three-bedroomed house, in Woodland View, Henwood Road, Compton, has been well planned throughout, including off-road parking, gas central heating and majority uPVC double glazing.

Estate agent Jackson, Lile & Close is managing the sale via its Wolverhampton office, inviting offers in the region of £225,000.

On approach, a large asphalt driveway with an attractive garden alongside leads to a garage measuring 17ft 1in x 8ft 1in.

There is a separate side entrance with a wrought iron gate giving access to the rear garden.

An enclosed porch with a panelled and single-glazed door and electric lantern leads through a glazed front door into a hallway with display shelf and coved ceiling.

Illuminated

Measuring 13ft 10in x 12ft 3in, the lounge has a window looking over the front garden, a hardwood fire surround with illuminated glazed display cabinets housing a flame-effect has fire, a coved ceiling and decorative ceiling rose.

In the dining room, which has dimensions of 10ft 10in x 8ft 8in, there is a coved ceiling and patio window with a sliding door leading to the rear garden.

Measuring 10ft 10in x 9ft 5in, the kitchen has a range of wall and base units incorporating a stainless steel sink, concealed underlighting, an illuminated leaded and glazed display wall cabinet, rolled-edge worksurfaces, a cooker point, plumbing for a dishwasher and an integrated refrigerator. A window overlooks the rear garden.

An enclosed L-shaped rear lobby and utility area measures 15ft 11in x 7ft 6in, with doors to the garage and rear garden, rolled-edge worksurfaces, high level shelf, plumbing for a washing machine, space for fridge/freezer and a gas-fired boiler supplying the central heating and hot water.

With dimensions of 9ft 2in x 3ft 8in, the shower room has fully-tiled walls, cubicle, a pedestal wash basin and a low-level WC.

A staircase leads from the hall to the first floor



This detached home has ample off-road parking and an attractive rear garden

semi-galleried landing, which has

a side-facing window, coved ceiling and aluminium folding ladder giving access to the roof space.

The rear-facing master bedroom measures 12ft 2in x 11ft and has an extensive range of contemporary fitted wardrobes and other furniture.

Bedroom two faces the front, has dimensions of 12ft x 10ft 9in, and a built-in double wardrobe with hanging rail and overhead

cupboard.

The third bedroom is also front-facing, measures 9ft 1in x 7ft 5in and has a built-in wardrobe with hanging rail and shelf and an overhead storage cupboard.

In the bathroom, there is a panelled bath with shower over, a pedestal wash basin, low-level WC and an extractor fan.

At the rear of the house, what the agent describes as a "most attractively laid out" garden has a

sunny aspect and overlooks the protected Valley Park nature walk.

There is a raised paved terrace, a brick barbecue, cold water tap and a steps down to a rose arch, which leads through to an ornamental pond, shaped lawn and well stocked flowering borders.

There are two timber garden sheds, along with a security light. Contact the agent on 01902 712812 to arrange a viewing.

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Darlaston

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Darlaston
WS10 8DE

Willenhall

Beechwood House
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Willenhall
WV13 2BG



Towering spires - delphiniums can grow as high as 2m (6ft) and come in various colours

Dazzle with delphiniums

They are the majestic kings of the cottage garden, standing tall in mid-summer, throwing up their towering spires in every shade of blue, but also in white, cream lilac, pink and purple varieties. They grow best in full sun and thrive in a wide range of soils, although they will rot over the winter if the soil becomes waterlogged.

Dig in plenty of compost or well rotted manure before planting to give them the best start. You will need to support them as some grow as high as nearly 2m (6ft).

Cut them back immediately once the flowers have faded to encourage another flush of flowers later on in the season.

If you want the classic tall spires, go for a named Elatum hybrid from a specialist nursery or well-stocked garden centre.

Good types include 'Gillian Dallas', which has slate blue semi-double flowers with a white eye, or 'Fenella', with its dark blue blooms and black eye. Good white varieties include 'Olive Poppleton' and 'Sunglam'.

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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Model T Ford experience was such a thrill

THERE'S nothing like stalling a car at a set of traffic lights and watching a queue of impatient drivers wait for your next move to bring you back down to earth with a bump.

Thankfully I didn't have to lift a finger – I had a man jump out and turn the starting handle for me. This was a driving lesson with a difference.

When a car has three pedals, including reverse in the centre and the brake on the right plus a hand throttle, it's best to take expert advice before mixing it with more modern metal.

And that's exactly what I did before taking to the roads of Dagenham in a Model T. In case you didn't know, Ford in the UK is 100 years old.

It's a happy coincidence that the firm has launched its all-new Focus "world car" this year, and its arrival is a good opportunity to take the wheel of what started it off all those years ago.

The Model T's inception and subsequent lengthy production run is a story in itself.

What's just as interesting is how cars have both changed out of all recognition yet in many ways have stayed the same since Ford's original world car broke cover.

To drive, the Model T appears to be simplicity itself. In reality, at least to a vintage car novice, things couldn't be more different.

The lack of convention – the pedals are a prime example – prompts you to concentrate doubly hard, while the car's hand throttle and long-throw handbrake-gear selector demand a new level of dexterity.

Get it right, though, and the feeling of achievement is

By Iain Dooley

a special one. Get it wrong and you've most likely stalled the car or have found yourself travelling a bit too fast for that 20th-century speed hump. The car's brakes are, shall we say, modest by current standards.

After a brisk drive around the local area – including a trio of stalls – it was back into a BMW 5 Series. A simple push of a button turned over its super-efficient six-cylinder turbo diesel motor. Contrast that with a few, firm turns on a starting handle and the need to keep your thumb out of the way in case the handle kicked back.

Respect

The experience was both exciting and humbling. 20mph felt twice as fast thanks to the car's lack of roof and basic windscreen. It also generated a lot of respect for those early motorists. I was out on a sunny day, but imagine having to contend with wind, rain or worse on a regular basis. Even with the roof in place, the protection offered was minimal. No question, those early adopters were a hardy bunch.

It's true that we've never had it so good when it comes to the technology and refinement of modern cars. But when you examine something like a Model T, you realise that little has changed. There's still a wheel at each corner and one for the driver to hold, drive to the engine is via a shaft and the fundamental technology behind the Model T's engine is closer to that 5 Series than BMW would like to admit.

I'm not demanding my own personal jetpack but I do hope the next 100 years sees a bigger leap in car design.



Flying the flag – a Model T Ford on the road in Edinburgh during a vintage parade



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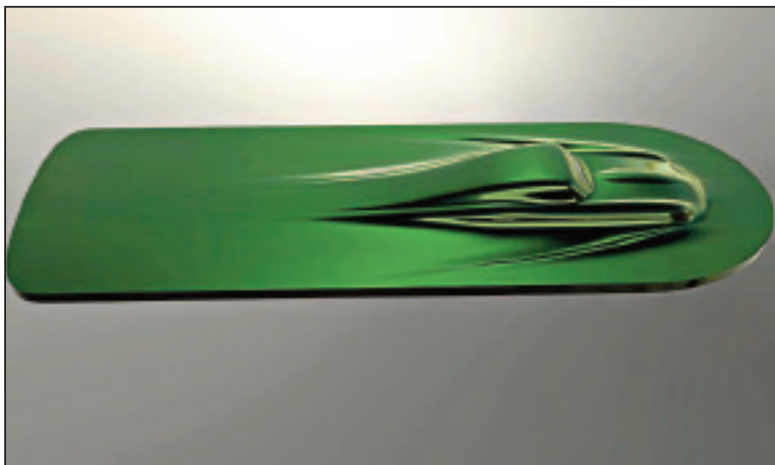
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Bedfordshire design student Claudio Barbato's E-Type sculpture



Qu Junyi from Weihai in China submitted these designs

Students out to make their marque in contest

THREE automotive design students in the Midlands have been shortlisted in an E-Type competition to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the famous marque.

The students from Coventry University will have their sculptures unveiled at the Cholmondeley Pageant of Power between July 15 and 17 and the winner will have his sculpture reproduced in a limited edition.

Classic Motor Cars of Bridgnorth, renowned for restoring Jaguars, approached the School of Art & Design to ask students to design a sculpture for the anniversary.

Fantastic

Peter Neumark, chairman of CMC, said: "The idea came from the fact that we had an amount of spare metal from the Lindner Nocker Lightweight E-Type which we have spent over 7,000 hours restoring and which was recently unveiled.

"It struck me that it would be fantastic if we could use some of the metal and incorporate it into a sculpture to celebrate the E-Type 50th anniversary.

"As the E-Type represents such an icon for design, we decided to invite automotive design students of the world famous School of Art and Design at Coventry University to incorporate some of the metal into a piece of artwork."

More than 40 students took part in the first stage of the competition. Neumark and his team chose 10 designs to go forward and these students were asked to enhance their designs and make models of the concepts.

A panel of three judges, Neumark, Ian Callum, the head of design at Jaguar Cars, and David Barzilay then shortlisted three students whose work would go into the final stage.

"It was extremely difficult," said Callum. "The standard of work was not only very high but also extremely varied but in the end we came up with three pieces of work that we wanted to see go to the model stage."

The three pieces of work by students, Borys Dabrowski, 21, from Goleniow in Poland; Claudio Barbato, 20, from Bedford and Qu Junyi, 24, from Weihai in China will be unveiled at Cholmondeley.

David Browne, honorary teaching fellow at Coventry University's School of Art and Design, said: "The competition represents a sculpturally investigative, creative and imaginative challenge to all participant students.

"It has given all of them something unique to put in their portfolios. It has been extremely worthwhile."

The top three will be awarded cash prizes and the winning sculpture will be cast and produced in a limited and numbered edition and auctioned to raise money for an automotive charity, to be announced at a later date.

Classic Motor Cars Ltd is the UK's leading Jaguar restoration company. Founded in 1993, CMC specialises in Jaguar upgrades, servicing, repair, rebuilds and car sales.



Borys Dabrowski from Goleniow in Poland devised this striking entry

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SPORT MARTIAL ARTS

Elite fighters bring home haul of medals

A karate club near Walsall has come away with a haul of medals after entering a national martial art tournament.

Elite Shotokkan Club entered the Staffordshire International Karate Tournament last month at Cheslyn Hay Leisure Centre and faced opponents from across England and Ireland.

The club in Essington took 16 medals with many of the students who entered relatively inexperienced on the competition circuit but came out among the top performing clubs on the day. The medal winners were:

Richard Hill, aged 26, from Great Wyrley who won the men's senior kata and the overall kata becoming grand champion 2011

Fiona Plater, 19 from Cannock won the female senior kata and overall kata to become female grand champion 2011

Josh Devey, 12 from Great Wyrley got bronze in kata

Jack Harris, 11 from Great Wyrley won silver in kata and gold in fighting

John Hill, 53 won the 40 plus category to come away with a gold medal
Mike Carr, 26 from Cannock got

bronze in kata

Sam Evans, 26, from Cheslyn Hay got bronze in kata

Annabelle Evans, 6 from Essington won bronze in kata

Nici Nixon, 12, from Cheslyn Hay won bronze in fighting

James Alton, 16 from Cheslyn Hay won silver in fighting

Owen Cartridge, 13, from Essington won bronze in fighting

Ben Williams, nine, from Essington won bronze in fighting

Paige McCaughtrie, nine, won bronze in kata

Chief instructor David Hill, said:

"We have a very consistent standard right across the club. Across all ages, genders and grades we have won medals in both Kata and Fighting.

"The elite students have a really good balance of traditional karate and sport karate.

"I am very pleased with all the students who took part as well as medal winners there were many of my students who just finished outside the medals in 4th and 5th placings.

"Overall the club did absolutely fantastic. We have recently joined the English Karate Federation and the standard of karate athletes is much

higher than we have been used to however, my students have dug in and really excelled and have shown a lot of desire to want to compete against some of the very best in the UK. I am pleased to say we are more than holding our own. The club has been running for just five years now and what started with just three students has grown into over 30."

Richard Hill and Fiona Plater also competed at the UK United styles open competition at Stourbridge on the May 22 and did exceptionally well against some very strong teams which included the Official England

and Wales teams and the British Army Karate Team.

Richard came away with a 2nd in kata and Fiona who had came away with 2nd in kata and 2nd in fighting narrowly missing out in both finals.

Both of these students will be training extremely hard over the summer period to be ready for England selections in September.

If anyone interested in joining the club, which trains throughout the summer, should contact David on 07890 646 921. Training is twice weekly at Essington Community centre.

BOXING

Keane takes a swipe at ex-manager

Walsall's Christopher Keane has taken a swipe at former manager Barry McGuigan after signing a three-year deal with promoter Frank Warren.

The 2009 ABA heavyweight champion was announced as Warren's latest capture, effectively as a free agent, and will fight under Warren's banner for the first time in September.

The 25-year-old had his contract with McGuigan, which still had a year to run, handed back to him after the former world champion failed to get him a fight in the last six months.

Keane has only had four bouts since turning pro in September 2009 but had to sit out the next 10 months after tearing his bicep.

But it's the three fights in just under a year since that ripples with Keane, who believes his career will now turn a corner.



Christopher Keane

Waste

He said: "I wasn't getting fights, I wasn't getting anything really, it's a waste of time being a professional boxer like that.

"Barry poached me, otherwise I could have been going to the Olympics now. He promised me the world, came up with nothing and I was left in the lurch.

"I am a honest guy, I believed him like a mug, but I have learned my lesson from that.

"With Frank Warren, I will get noticed. I am looking forward to it and, as long as I get regular fights, I will be happy. All I want to do is box."

Keane's new contract will see Warren promote him and Errol Johnson come in as manager, which will see him train at Wednesday Boxing Academy twice a week.

Regular trainer Paul Hudson is still on board as is his cut-man Dean Edwards.

And, with Warren and Johnson working behind the scenes, Keane is looking forward to getting busy.

He said: "I want to be fighting for some sort of title by the end of next year. The cruiserweight division is still wide open so there's a big chance for me."

Gymnastic event

Birmingham Gymnastics and Martial Arts Centre (GMAC) will play host to the 2011 English Rhythmic Gymnastics Championships on Sunday. The competition starts at 10am on Sunday, June 12, (doors open 9am). Tickets are available on the door priced at £7.50 for adults and £5 for concessions.

CRICKET

Consistency proving the key says captain

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

WALSALL captain Paul Byrne has pinpointed consistency in selection as the key to his side's climb away from the bottom of the Premier Division.

Byrne and Co collected a second successive winning draw against early pacesetters Himley recently and then travelled to Moseley infused with fresh confidence.

And Byrne believes the club are being rewarded for sticking with players despite a slow start to the new campaign.

The skipper, whose team are now sixth in the table despite still being without a win, said: "I don't think anything has changed particularly in the last couple of weeks but hopefully we're getting some rewards now for keeping the same team from last year.

"The younger players are starting to build up some experience at this level now, and we are adding that to the experienced players who were already in the side.

"We have kept a consistent team and we are starting to see the results now, especially in the batting department, where we have managed to post a couple of good scores in the last couple of weeks."

Tom Freeman was unavailable for the match but Andy Hawkins was back after missing the clash with Himley.

And Byrne said: "People might look at this as an easier game after we played Barnt Green and Himley in our last two matches, but Moseley always give us tough games."



Premier Division outfit Walsall line up for the camera, back row, left to right: Dave Middleton, Javadi Ram, Colin Griggs, Paul Wicker, Tom Freeman, David Powles, Adam Breakspear. Front row: Paul Baker, Alex McChristie, Paul Byrne, Christian Jonker, Jack Manuel.

Picture: Tony Marsh

Milford pull the stops out to see off any challenge from Bloxwich

MILFORD HALL 1ST XI 223 FOR 3 BEAT
BLOXWICH 1ST XI 220 FOR 7

Bloxwich first team captain Danny King lost the toss this week and the opposition opted for Bloxwich to go into bat.

It wasn't a good start to the first innings for Bloxwich, with the first wicket falling at the last ball of the first over.

However, opening batsmen Danny King (35) and Pirmjit Singh (40) managed to knock up a great partnership of 75 runs, which kept Bloxwich's run rate going until the unfortunate fall of the second wicket in the 17th over.

Batsmen John Darby (14), Thom Fellows (27), Aaron Alcock (16) and Lee Bates (16 no) all made a brilliant effort

alongside a striking performance from Andrew McAree with his 53 no. Helping Bloxwich to reach 220 runs for 7 wickets off 50 overs.

The second innings started off well for Bloxwich as they managed to keep the oppositions run rate below that of the first innings up until the 40th over.

This was to the great efforts from all the fielders and bowlers John Darby, Danny King, Thom Fellows, Pirmjit Singh and especially wicket takers Aaron Alcock and James Lewis.

However despite Bloxwich's best efforts in the field they were unable to stop Milford Hall reaching 223 runs for 3 wickets off 48.1 overs.

Teacher is up for an award

A TRAINEE PE teacher at a Sandwell school is in the running for a top award.

Elliot Browne, who works at Bristnall Hall Technology College in Oldbury, has been put forward for the Robert Owen Group Co-operative Trainee Teacher Award.

Physical education teacher Mr Browne, who is also a former pupil of the Bristnall Hall Lane school, was nominated by his university tutor for the award.

Miss Philippa Churm, assistant head-teacher at Bristnall Hall, said: "When you are doing your teacher training your university tutors have to do observations.

"They have been so impressed with Elliot that he has been nominated for an award.

"He was a student here himself and a former head boy. He will also start a job as a newly qualified teacher here in September."



Trainee teacher Elliot Browne

Meanwhile, the June Strixton Medal and Tucker Cup proved as competitive as ever.

The Division One renewal, for handicaps of 12 and below, went to James Hateley; Richard Astbury took the Division Two version (13-18), and Peter Dicken claimed the Division Three event (18+).

New team

Birmingham will have a team in the British Basketball League (BBL) for the 2012/13 season. Oaks Consultancy have been awarded a team franchise.

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sport

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**CRICKET
CAPTAIN TALKS
OF CONSISTENCY**
Page 59



Mystery Banks's bidder named

The mystery bidder who has put in a multi-million pound offer for the freehold of Walsall FC's Stadium is businessman Geoff Dance.

Lifelong Saddlers fan Mr Dance, who was born and bred in Walsall, is managing director of Stratford-upon-Avon based PMD Magnetics. The 62-year-old said if he and the company took over the freehold of the site – thought to be worth around £5 million – it “would see the ownership of the Banks's Stadium in the hands of a family business with deep Black Country roots”. Father-of-

two Mr Dance, who has put in an offer to agents DTZ, has outlined his vision for the future should he take over the freehold.

“The continued use of the stadium by Walsall FC would be a heartfelt desire,” said Mr Dance, whose family first moved in to Walsall in 1863 and worked in the leather industry.

“The club provides a point of focus for the town of Walsall, the people and of course these days the Sunday markets and numerous other functions provided at the stadium adding to the attractions and life of the town. Establishment of Walsall FC as a

regular Championship team would be a realistic desire that I share with most supporters of the Saddlers.

Achievement

“It is my belief that security of the site in relation to footballing activities and the commercial aspects which support them will help allow the achievement of this aim.”

Mr Dance, whose son Matthew is also a Walsall fan, added: “It would never be my intention or that of PMD Magnetics to allow the freehold to be vested with any organisation that would endanger the existence of a

football club with more than 120 years of history.” Meanwhile, Labour leader Tim Oliver has invited all of Walsall's 60 councillors to a behind-closed doors meeting with football club bosses, including owner Jeff Bonser, on June 21.

Pressure has been mounting on Walsall Council to take over the freehold, with leader Mike Bird repeatedly ruling it out as the authority struggles to make cash cuts.

Mr Oliver said: “Football clubs have an important role not only as employers but also in engendering social cohesion, community pride and spirit.”

Keeper Ryan given a trial by Saddlers

Walsall have handed a trial to young Afan Lido keeper Aaron Ryan.

The 17-year-old is a product of Port Talbot Town's academy and will spend the first week of July with the Saddlers.

Ryan, who has attracted scouts from Bolton, Cardiff, Coventry and Ipswich, played a handful of Macwhirter Welsh League games last season.

He was also included in the Wales development squad and won a Welsh Academy Cup medal at Under-16 level with Port Talbot in 2009-10. Ryan has also been capped by the Boys Clubs of Wales at Under-18 level.

Walsall are short of goalkeeping cover after releasing Jonny Brain at the end of last season, while they are waiting on an answer from David Bevan, who was offered another 12-month contract at the end of last season.

Veteran first choice Jimmy Walker has already signed a new one-year deal.

Meanwhile, former Walsall assistant boss Frank Barlow has been named as Sheffield United's assistant manager to Danny Wilson.

Barlow, who was Paul Merson's assistant during his time at the Banks's Stadium, previously joined Wilson at Bristol City and Sheffield Wednesday.

ENGLAND NEEDS TO CUT COMPLACENCY

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Football changed and left England behind. Now the country is fighting back. Picture the scene: Fabio Capello's national side is crumbling.

A 32-year-old Frank Lampard is outshone by Arsenal starlet Jack Wilshere in the lacklustre 2-2 draw with Switzerland.

Against the Swiss it was the senior players who let the side down, the last of the ‘golden generation’ struggling to convince others they are more than foot's gold.

The failures of the last decade – now standing at three World Cups and one European Championship (not forgetting the inability to qualify for Euro 2008) – serve as reminders of the deficiencies.

English football needs life. The complacency and stubbornness which have dogged the game in this country because of its history have become the biggest noose.

England might have invented the game but they've lost the patent.

Yet even though Germany and Spain have dashed ahead in terms of youth development – something recognised by Football Association – they are not out of sight.

Grassroots

At Walsall's Banks's Stadium last week, coaches from across the West Midlands quizzed FA youth chiefs Sir Trevor Brooking and Gareth Southgate about proposed changes to the grassroots game.

The FA's Youth Development Review is a planned overhaul of grassroots football which, it is hoped, will revolutionise the game. The focus is on improving the enjoyment and technique for kids and head of elite development Southgate insisted the plans are vital to the future.

“There are no guarantees we will win something because of this but I'm pretty certain, if we don't do it, we won't win anything,” said the former Villa and England defender.

“Historically we've had a certain style and beliefs. When I played international football there were so many occasions where the other teams were technically better than we were. We've always produced a few technically good players – Gascoigne, Scholes, Rooney – but if we had injuries our talent pool wasn't large enough.

“People are rightly raising the question now, why aren't we technically playing the same way as the Spanish, Portuguese or Italians? I think there's a generation of fathers saying this is what they want for their kids.

Resilience

“We have great character and resilience, which are strengths other countries don't have, so we don't want to just be modelling ourselves on the Spanish but we need to change. Twelve years ago we would have modelled ourselves on the French and three years ago on the Germans but it's not about picking one thing or one country.

“It's about what's right for us. The principles don't change, you have to have a well rounded player and making decisions on the pitch doesn't change, but how we get there is different for us than it is for the Spanish.”

The under-21s started their Euro 2011 campaign against Spain in Denmark with all eyes on Stuart Pearce's kids.

Henri Lansbury, Daniel Sturridge and Marc Albrighton are the young pretenders to England's tired old guard but may fall to the weight of expectation and limitations which hampered their predecessors.

It's not an overnight fix and Brooking, the FA's director of football development, admitted England are still years behind their international rivals.



Future looks bright – Gareth Southgate unveils his plans at the Banks's Stadium in Walsall

He said: “Germany were doing it 10 years ago and had similar investment so this is a five or 10-year plan.

“It's a long-term thing. We're working with the Premier League and they are happy to buy into the changes. If we're helped by the Premier League we could transform it in five or 10 years.

“It's an exciting time. It's taken a while to get here but I think the momentum is there. It's time for a change if we want to get to a competitive level in international football.

“Arsene Wenger said, with the English youngster's desire, hunger and physical energy, if you could get the technical level the same as the better Europeans, he'd pick the English youngster every time. But the gap is too big.

“What we've got to do is get our English youngsters much better technically and give the clubs a difficult option. At the moment it's too easy to go abroad and bring in half a dozen youngsters.”

The Development Review is the biggest facelift grassroots football has undergone since 11-a-side for under-10s was banned a decade ago. The roadshow is on a 16-city tour to raise awareness and assess the responses from coaches and players. But the changes – which if rubber-stamped will be mandatory by 2013-14 – will take time to

make that crucial difference. The proposals include scrapping league tables for children below secondary-school age and a change in the date which determines which age-group children play in.

There will also be more focus on nine vs nine – less players means more touches and more touches means increased technique.

The FA want to delay kids playing 11 vs 11 until under-13s, which is still a year younger than in Spain. National development manager Nick Levett had planned the revamp before failure in last year's World Cup turned the spotlight on his work.

Screamed

While it wasn't the catalyst, South Africa was the best thing to happen to grassroots football as the failure screamed the need for change.

“There seems to be a movement for change,” said Levett.

“I'd been doing all the research about eight months before the World Cup and none knew what I was doing but then we had a poor tournament. It put the spotlight on youth development and the Champions League final last month (between Barcelona and Manchester United) also highlighted some of the deficiencies.”



Mission – Trevor Brooking

Don't panic says Whitney

Jon Whitney has urged Walsall fans not to panic over the lack of early signings as he prepared to return to his role as physio.

Boss Dean Smith had targeted quick deals but has been thwarted in his hunt for new faces.

Top target Matt Gill agreed to join Bristol Rovers on Monday while former loanee Marco Gbassins has been away on international duty with the Central African Republic.

Smith has also revealed his interest in released Millwall midfielder Marc Laird, who ended last season on loan at the Banks's Stadium. But Whitney, who is stepping down as Smith's No.2, said the Saddlers will not rush into signing the wrong players.

He said: “Every club wants that (early signings) but we have to be realistic enough to know it might not happen. The players have other offers from other clubs and try to wait for the best one.

“It's up to us to sell the club as a whole. It's up to us to get the right players in and not be rushed and end up with players to don't fit our profile.

“We want to be Premier League standard in what we do.”

Fans organise a trip North of the border

Walsall fans have announced plans for a coach to take supporters to their pre-season match in Scotland.

The club's supporters' trust will run the coach to Greenock Morton on July 13 for the match that forms part of the Saddlers' training camp north of the border.

Dean Smith's side will spend five days based in Stirling and will take on the Scottish Division One outfit at Cappielow Park on July 13 (7.30pm).

The coach from the Banks's Stadium will cost £25 per person to include food on journey.

Places are available from Steve Davies on 07799 835388.

Admission to the match will cost £10 (adults) and £6 for juniors, pensioners and students.

Pre-season Premier dates

Walsall are facing the big boys during some of the pre-season matches.

On Tuesday July 19 Dean Smith's boys entertain Wolves at Banks's, kick-off is 7.45pm. Walsall then take on Burton Albion at Lillishall on Wednesday, July 20 with the kick-off 11.00am.

The Saddlers are back facing Premier opponents the following day when Aston Villa come to the Banks's Stadium, kick-off 7.45pm.

Walsall are then away to Nuneaton Town playing at the Triton Showers Community Stadium on Saturday, July 23, kick-off 3.00pm.

They are away to Cheltenham Town at The Abbey Business Stadium on Tuesday, July 26, kick-off 7.45pm. and then face Port Vale away on Saturday, July 30, kick-off 3.00pm

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Feel good this summer with Matalan's great value specials. We're offering you our best price on summer essentials for you and your family.



t-shirts £3 each

£3 each

Feel Good
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vests £3 each



vests £3 each

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tops £8 each



dresses £8 each



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dress £10



dress £10



Summer
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for him



£4 Feel Good Fashion

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for your hols...



£3 Feel Good Fashion

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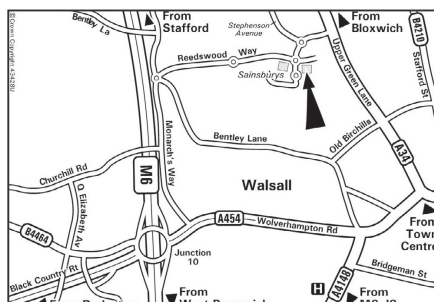
print towels £5 each



bikini £5

Summer Specials

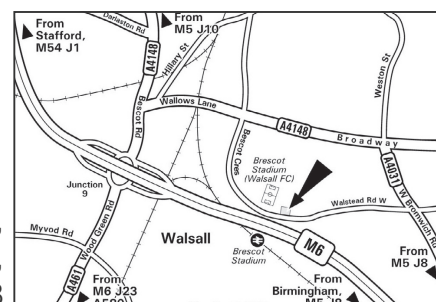
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